

SPORTS PINK

75p

Home of Hampshire sport October 28 2017



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Van Dijk was wanted by Seagulls boss Gus Poyet

DID you know Virgil van Dijk could have signed for Saints' south coast rivals Brighton?

During Gus Poyet's final season in charge of the Seagulls, he had a young Dutch central defender at the top of his wish list, writes ANDY NAYLOR.

Poyet travelled to the Netherlands to watch van Dijk.

Brighton made bids of around £2m, which were rebuffed by Groningen during the January 2013 transfer window.

A few months later, after Albion's defeat in the Championship play-offs by Crystal Palace and Poyet's acrimonious sacking, Oscar Garcia was named as his replacement.

Five days prior to the Spaniard's official unveiling, van Dijk joined Celtic for £2.6m.

Van Dijk moved to Saints at the end of the summer transfer window two years ago for £11.5m.

He is back playing for the Saints, at least for the time being, and will be at the heart of their defence at the Amex on Sunday.

Liverpool wanted to buy van Dijk in the summer, and he wanted to go. The Reds are expected to renew their interest in the New Year.



Virgil Van Dijk. Pic by Saints FC.

Van Dijk is hot property. The 26-year-old has been valued at anything between £50m and £70m.

Which begs the question, how much is Lewis Dunk worth?

Dunk might have been lining up on the same side as Van Dijk at club level, just as Albion team-mate Davy Propper does on the international stage with Holland.

Instead the Brightonian stopper has forged a formidable partnership with Republic of Ireland international Shane Duffy, bought from Blackburn for a then club record fee of around £3.5m 14 months ago.

That looks a steal now. Dunk and Duffy, the bedrock of promotion from the Championship last season, have continued their commanding form in Albion's promising start in the Premier League.

So much so that Dunk's prospects of following Duffy into international football are becoming increasingly credible.

Talk of Dunk forcing his way into the plans of England boss Gareth Southgate has gathered momentum since The Argus pressed his claims at the beginning of the month.

Consistently outstanding performances have caught the eye of pundits, spectators and bookmakers.

Continued on facing page

SAINTS

I'm still searching

Adam Leitch



Mauricio Pellegrino admits Saints are still searching for a new identity, but insists nine games is nowhere near long enough to build it.

With Frank De Boer sacked after four league games at Crystal Palace and Ronald Koeman dismissed from Everton after nine top flight games this season, patience with managers seems to be wearing ever thinner.

Pellegrino finds it hard to understand, but knows he is playing the same game.

It's when the fine line between planning for the future and trying to get instant results needs to be carefully trodden.

It certainly hasn't been an easy start to life at St Mary's for Pellegrino, and he is adamant that it will take time to get things the way he wants them.

He said: "It's a season with ups and downs, not too regular in terms of results but I think we are getting better in terms of performance and how we are playing, to be more intelligent, more clinical, to create different situations, and we are working on the base of the team."

"We are a team creating a good number of chances in the final third and this is something we are doing well. Obviously I would like to improve the accuracy in the final third to score more goals and this is our target for the next few games."

Evolution

"We are looking for an identity."

"We play nine games in the Premier League which is not too much when we think about the evolution of the team."

"In modern football in nine games you can write a lot of history, but in the history of the club it is nothing, to build connections with the players is nothing."

"We are changing in different ways and different players to see how they feel in different situations. Modern football is about 22 players and not just one. We are not dancing with another 11, we just dance alone."

After victory against West Brom last weekend thanks to Sofiane Boufal's late wonder goal, Saints look for their first back-to-back victories of the season as they go to Brighton on Sunday.

"Every single game is an opportunity to try to continue improving," reflected Pellegrino.

"Sometimes the stats are important, but the numbers and

the stats are important at the end when the season is gone. It depends then on what position and the level of our players."

"Right now we need to try to win games and it is something I would like to do."

"It will be a difficult game, very tough, because they have been working for a long period of time with the same manager and idea."

'In modern football in nine games you can write a lot of history, but in the history of the club it is nothing, to build connections with the players is nothing'

"A good rhythm team, very clinical, clear ideas, really tough in set plays, in counter attack very dangerous. We need a really good performance to bring some positives."

"The three teams coming from the Championship I am really surprised about that."

"Huddersfield, Newcastle and Brighton are doing really well."

I never see in my life something like that from the beginning the three teams doing really well, winning games and being really competitive from the beginning."

Part of Saints trying to find an identity must also be Pellegrino deciding on what he believes is his best team.

The boss is happy with a competitive squad but it doesn't make



SAINTS



for an identity



life any easier for him when it comes to making decisions.

"When we think about our squad we build it because we want to be stronger as a club and they have to fight each other to be better and to be better prepared.

"I have a lot of options and I trust in most of them. Most of them are ready to play to be honest.

"It is a nice problem for me because I have options to choose the best 11."

Of course, there has been much focus on the Saints attack this season, due to a lack of goals that stems back to the last campaign.

Sofiane Boufal has put himself in prime position to be the man to help Saints with a stunning goal against West Brom.

But he is one of a myriad of options for Pellegrino, who is trying to find a successful formula.

"Most of the players have got ability. For me I always try to explain to them that you have to choose the right moment to go one v one, when to play simple or maybe pass to the other teammate in a better position," he reckoned.

"In modern football organisa-

tion is really high and they don't have too much time to decide, less than one second, between the lines.

"An offensive player has to think before they receive the ball and read the big picture. In modern football to learn and to see before receiving the ball is crucial.

"It is the main target for all our offensive players and not just Sofiane.

"I think because you as an individual your body has a limitation but as a team you don't have any limits.

"The connections between the players and the understanding and the quantity of different action that you can create between each other has no limit.

"When you improve that as a team for this reason nine games in the evolution of the team is nothing.

"Some players speak English well between them. They are good at something as an individual but in team sport improving as a team is something you can always be better."

Saints will be without Mario Lemina for the game against Brighton, a significant blow given he has been their best player this season.

But assuming Saints can stem any problems from that loss, again the spotlight is likely to fall on the attack and whether they can create and convert chances.

With Manolo Gabbiadini now seemingly a fixture in the side, Charlie Austin is having to wait for his chance while Shane Long toils in a wide role trying to desperately find a bit of confidence from somewhere to get scoring again.

Confidence

"It's part of our job," insisted Pellegrino. "I think Shane was working well, working for the team, and the other day for example was defending in the right side. He did a good job for the team and he has had a couple of chances he couldn't score, but I am happy with his job.

"Charlie now obviously is waiting and training to be ready for his opportunity.

"The manager decides at this moment to put in another teammate and this is part of our decision.

"The moment that I decide to put them on the pitch is because I am giving the confidence and I am receiving from them the strength and conviction that they can do it really well.

"I have a lot of players and most of them deserve to play, but sometimes it depends on how we are and the necessity of the team. Sometimes I see the momentum is much better than the other."

Carragher joins Dunk fan club

from facing page

Leroy Rosenior, father of Albion defender Liam, said prior to Albion's last home game against Everton that Dunk "could go into a top six side and he would improve them."

The Brighton Argus newspaper revealed last week that the odds on Dunk featuring in Southgate's squad for next summer's World Cup finals in Russia have plummeted from 25-1 to 11-1.

More bets have been placed on him than other candidates to make a breakthrough like Newcastle captain Jamaal Lascelles and Tammy Abraham, the free-scoring Chelsea striker Albion were eager to borrow before he joined next hosts Swansea on loan.

Ex-England internationals Jamie Carragher and Ian Wright joined the growing list of Dunk admirers in the wake of another powerful defensive display together with Duffy in the recent 3-0 win at West Ham.

Carragher said: "There's nothing better for me in the role that I played to see defenders defend like this, and want to defend. Doing everything they can to stop that ball going into the back of the net."

Wright was similarly impressed. "I haven't seen anyone block as



Lewis Dunk

much," he remarked of Dunk. "The last person was John Terry."

Dunk, 26 next month, has matured into a dominant and responsible force. The occasional rash challenges and flashes of retaliatory ill-discipline are in sharp decline.

Stretching back to March, he has been booked only once in his last 20 appearances. In the previous 20 he accumulated eight yellow cards and a red.

Dunk, awarded his fourth new contract in three years by Albion in August through to 2022, was named in Stuart Pearce's England under-21s squad for two European Championship qualifiers back in 2011 without getting a game.

England's place in Russia assured, there is every chance Southgate will name him in the squad for the forthcoming friendlies against Germany and Brazil.

Very few, if any, flat back four partnerships in the Premier League are performing better than Dunk and Duffy.

Albion team-mate Glenn Murray, a test for Van Dijk on Sunday following his two goals at West Ham, said: "When you're a newly promoted Premier League club, the one thing you have got to be able to do is defend.

Continued on page 5.

Hughton: We can't be too confident

Chris Hughton has warned Brighton they cannot afford to be cocksure following last week's victory at West Ham as he looked ahead to their fixture with Saints.

The newly-promoted Seagulls delivered a stunning blow to Slaven Bilic's beleaguered side by walking away from the London Stadium with a 3-0 win, their first Premier League away triumph.

The result left Bilic facing the prospect of the sack but the pressure on him was alleviated after the Hammers battled back from a 2-0 deficit to beat London rivals Tottenham 3-2 in the Carabao Cup.

Hughton, therefore, is refusing to take anything for granted in the top flight and has urged his men not to let their performance levels drop ahead of a showdown with south coast rivals Saints.

He said: "There's always that danger (of over-confidence), but it's my responsibility, and the responsibility of the people around me, to make sure we're level-headed going into every game.

"What we've learned so far in this division is that if your level of performance is like it was at West Ham, you have every chance of winning a game.

"But if they had scored early, then it could have been completely different. I know the teams were completely changed, but we saw in West Ham's midweek game [against



Chris Hughton

Tottenham], it looked over and, of course, it wasn't.

"It's my responsibility to make sure we're grounded and going into every game knowing that we have to work very hard to get a result."

Hughton has a near fully fit squad to choose from, with Steve Sidwell the only absentee as the midfielder continues his recovery from a back injury.

Fellow midfielder Beram Kayal and forward Sam Baldock could be included in the matchday squad for the first time this season after their recoveries from a broken leg and calf surgery respectively.

Both players have turned out for the under-23 side but Hughton is wary of rushing the pair back into action.

He said: "Both of them have played in the last two under-23 games, but they wouldn't have had the training and build-up that the others have had.

"They looked good in the games and have worked very hard on their rehab programmes."

Striker Tomer Hemed is in contention to return to the starting line-up after completing a three-game suspension for violent conduct, and Hughton added: "It's a big boost, he was in very good form before the ban, so it's great to have him back."

SAINTS

A stunning week

Adam Leitch



It has been a stunning week in the world of former Saints managers with one surprisingly sacked and another surprisingly appointed.

Well, maybe Ronald Koeman's sacking wasn't such a surprise given the state Everton have found themselves this season.

However, in the grand scheme of things it perhaps is, given his status when he made the switch from Saints to Goodison Park, and the amount of money he has been backed with.

There can be no doubting, though, the surprise factor around Claude Puel's appointment at Leicester.

Both provide a chance for reflection for Saints in terms of where their recent history has taken them as a club.

Firstly on Koeman, his split from Saints feels all the more curious as time rolls on.

Given that both the club and the manager seemed so content with parting company at the time he went to Everton, you can only reflect it hasn't worked out too well for either.

Koeman has gone on to get sacked, and his dreams of landing one of world football's biggest jobs are, for now at least, seemingly in tatters.

For Saints it has been something of a regression since Koeman went.

For all the talk of whether last season under Claude Puel was a success or not, ultimately Saints clearly didn't think so as they sacked him in the summer.

At the time of writing his replacement, Mauricio Pellegrino, though still only early on in his tenure, has not wound the clock back to the Koeman era and produced that thrilling start the Dutchman managed within weeks of his arrival.

Make no mistake, it was said in these pages at the time and it still holds firm, that Koeman's time in charge was a glorious two years for Saints.

When we look back at the history of Saints in 20 years' time, there is every chance that the two years under the Dutchman's leadership will prove to be amongst the greatest the club has experienced.

Not only did he lead Saints to seventh and sixth in the table, but with some top players playing exciting football, and a brief feeling that anything was possible.

It was a marvellous time to be around St Mary's.

That he grew so much in stature, that he ran things in a way

Ronald Koeman was sacked by Everton this week.



Claude Puel

that some of the Saints hierarchy didn't completely agree with, that he was off message in terms of playing youngsters, meant the club seemed content to let him go to Everton.

They obviously felt they had the code to the safe and that success would continue unabated without him.

Koeman, too, seemed to feel as

if he had outgrown Saints, and his public statements on what he would require to get Saints to the next level seemed designed to increase pressure when what he wanted was unrealistic.

For all the talk of his salary at Everton, it remains very hard to believe that was really a huge motivating factor for a man already very rich.

To both parties it was about something more than that, something far more fundamental in terms of the direction they wanted to go and, crucially, how you go about getting there.

Koeman's time at Everton has clearly not gone as he would have hoped. In truth, for all the talk of money spent, it was the money not spent that did for him – namely failing to replace Romelu Lukaku.

Any side would struggle after losing one of the world's best strikers. Everton have suffered doubly from the fact they haven't really replaced him at all, even with an inferior version.

How much of that falls on to Koeman's shoulders and how much of the blame lies above his head is hard to say from this distance.

Either way, it has helped to bring about a sudden demise.

Puel was the man entrusted at St Mary's after Koeman went.

He had to manage in difficult circumstances.

The team went through significant changes that summer, and in

SAINTS



for two ex-Saints

'Given that both Saints and Koeman seemed so content with parting company at the time he went to Everton, you can only reflect it hasn't worked out too well for either'

a similar way to Everton losing Lukaku, it was always going to be hard for Saints to get to grips with the departures of Graziano Pelle and Sadio Mane.

It also took Saints one transfer window to bring in Manolo Gabbiadini, in the same way Everton

will surely now realise they need a striker in January.

Puel also had the fixture congestion of the Europa League to deal with, particularly tricky when as a club you aren't used to it.

On top of that he ended up with Charlie Austin and Virgil van

Dijk, two key men in Puel's vision for the team, injured for half a season each, and also relented to the desire to play youngsters.

Despite all that, he still got them to eighth in the table and the EFL Cup final, even if they should have won that game against Man

United at Wembley and elimination in the group stages in Europe was a frustration.

The main charge against Puel was Saints' style.

It was fairly negative, especially in contrast to Koeman.

Maybe he felt that was the only way. Certainly the final standings at the end of the season suggested he did manage what he had reasonably enough, even if it was pretty dull.

It wasn't enough for Saints, though. No matter what measure pundits or fans may use for success, Saints ultimately had the casting vote by sacking him.

In truth, largely the same squad, only with a couple of big money additions, are not doing any better, albeit in these early days, under Mauricio Pellegrino – only without injuries, fixture congestion or young players figuring as an excuse.

That probably suggests Puel was doing about as well as possible with the squad at his disposal.

Leicester clearly haven't been put off, appointing him as a manager just a couple of years after they won the title.

It is a stunning decision in many ways, given how he was cast adrift at Saints.

If Saints continue to stumble along this season and he turns Leicester's fortunes around, there is going to be some serious egg on faces at St Mary's, and some even bigger questions to answer.

Surely Puel will have learned from his time at Saints. He must know his communication needs to be better, and also he must now understand the league a lot better. It will be fascinating to see how he gets on, and, indeed, where Koeman pops up next.

All the time Saints will be hoping the course they have plotted pays dividends to justify their own actions.

'Waking up to Dunk and Duffy'

from page 3

"We can do that. Duffy and Dunky love defending. It's huge for us and that's what we'll look to build on."

"They are very different. Duffy is what you would call a traditional old school defender."

"He'll head and kick everything."

And he can pass it, don't take that away from him. Dunky is better on the ball and has a cultured right foot. They've got a really big future in the game, both of them."

"They both push each other week in, week out. We've known this for a while down in Brighton. The country is just waking up to them now."

"Obviously people have known about Duffy because he plays for Ireland, but people are just starting to sit up and take notice of Dunky. There have been bids for him and a little bit of interest but people are starting to see what a talent he is."

"He's a bit unfortunate in that we've got quite a lot of good, young centre-halves in this country. But I've played against a few of them and he's right up there."

● GLENN MURRAY is confident of a scoring run in the Premier League for Brighton now he is close to peak condition.

The ex-Cherries striker struck twice last time out at West Ham, his first goals of the season after ankle trouble.

Murray, 34, said: "It's not nice going through a dry patch, how ever old you are. I was quite calm about it, because I wasn't fully fit."

"People around you sometimes get a little bit edgy, especially the older you get, but I was comfortable that as long as I got fit that I could score goals."

"Obviously I need to be provided. I was last year in the Championship and I know the boys are good enough to create chances and provide goals, and I'm pretty comfortable that I'll be able to put them away."

Murray leads the line against Saints on Sunday (1.30pm) at the Amex, where he scored 19 of his 23 goals in the Championship last season.



Glenn Murray, left.

Harrogate Christmas Markets

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Mourinho 1 Pochettino 0

Anthony Martial's 81st-minute goal gave Manchester United a 1-0 victory over Premier League title rivals Tottenham on a rainy Saturday afternoon at Old Trafford.

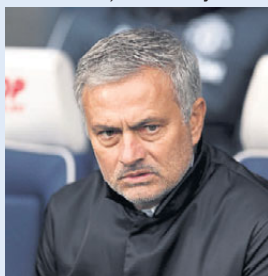
Here, the Sports Pink shines a spotlight on United boss Jose Mourinho and Spurs counterpart Mauricio Pochettino.

Team selection

Mourinho was able to restore Eric Bailly to the starting line-up alongside Chris Smalling and Phil Jones as part of a three-man backline, with Victor Lindelof jettisoned after floundering at Huddersfield last week. All eyes were on Pochettino, however, with Harry Kane out injured. The Argentinian shrugged off the loss of his star striker on the eve of the game and opted to bring in midfielder Moussa Sissoko as Son Heung-min was left to shoulder the burden on his own up front. Eric Dier, meanwhile, was preferred to Davinson Sanchez alongside Toby Alderweireld and Jan Vertonghen at the back.

Tactics

United, and Mourinho in particular, have been criticised for a perceived negative approach in the drab draw at Liverpool and last week's defeat to Huddersfield. On their own patch, United were back to a more attacking 3-4-3 formation but appeared to lack a cutting edge in an uneventful opening 45 minutes. Tottenham retained a three-man defence but were unable to give Son, and then Fernando Llorente, much support in attack. They had their moments, most notably when



Jose Mourinho

Dele Alli failed to make meaningful contact with a Christian Eriksen dink over the top, but it was United who looked more purposeful as the game progressed.

Substitutions

The changes both managers made showed they would not sit back for a point but neither was willing to throw the kitchen sink to go for all three, as the two changes made on both sides prior to the deadlock being broken were like-for-like replacements. But the introduction of Martial, on for Marcus Rashford, proved a masterstroke as he coolly slotted past Hugo Lloris from Romelu Lukaku's flick-on for the only goal of the game. All four of Martial's goals in the Premier League this season have come as a substitute.

Conclusion

It was hardly a game for the purists and arguably the pouring rain had an impact on both sides' ability to dictate the tempo. But United, who also hit the post just before the opener from Lukaku's header, just about deserved to walk away with a win. Any whispers of unrest at Old Trafford under Mourinho have therefore been silenced but Pochettino may reflect on how the absence of Kane damaged his side's hopes of leapfrogging their opponents in the table.

CHERRIES

Cherries stay in

Ned Payne

EDEN Hazard's second-half strike denied Cherries a third win on the spin as Chelsea took maximum points at Vitality Stadium.

In a contest dominated by the visitors, Belgian star Hazard profited from a Simon Francis mis-kick to slam past Asmir Begovic on the goalkeeper's 200th Premier League appearance.

A 1-0 victory did not flatter the Blues, who enjoyed greater possession and more chances, although Cherries cranked up the pressure late on.

The Dorset side remain in the drop zone and now face a hugely important trip to Newcastle United in seven days' time, with boss Eddie Howe contending with injuries to Junior Stanislas and Benik Afobe after both were forced off.

Howe made two changes to the side which had secured a first away league win of the season at Stoke City in their previous top flight fixture.

Jermain Defoe returned following two games out due to a hamstring problem, with France under-21 international Lys Mousset making way.

Defender Steve Cook replaced winger Jordon Ibe as Cherries shifted to a three-man central defence.

Joshua King and Ryan Fraser, who were both injury doubts, did not make the bench but Callum Wilson was included among the substitutes following his scoring return against Middlesbrough in the Carabao Cup.

Cherries acquitted themselves well in the opening exchanges but it was the visitors who had the first chance in the ninth minute.

Cesc Fabregas fed Pedro and the Spanish winger scampered away from Nathan Ake before lashing well over the bar from a central position. A decent chance wasted.

Cherries had one of their own not long after, the tenacity of Adam Smith playing a key role in a well-worked counter-attack.

When the ball found its way to Afobe, he slightly overhit his pass to the overlapping Charlie Daniels. With the angle too tight to shoot, Daniels pulled the ball back and Afobe's effort was charged down by David Luiz.

Chelsea should have taken the lead midway through the half following a couple of errors from the home side.

First, Lewis Cook put Francis in trouble with a heavy pass and although the skipper recovered to play back to Begovic, the keeper's kick was scuffed.



Eden Hazard celebrates putting Chelsea ahead at Bournemouth.

Hazard immediately played in £60million striker Alvaro Morata, who inexplicably placed wide when he should have scored.

The chances started to rack up. Tiemoue Bakayoko headed straight at Begovic and Morata had a goal incorrectly ruled out for offside – Azpilicueta the wronged party – before Davide Zappacosta's drive deflected be-

hind.

It took a superb save from Begovic to deny Morata after he had spun away from defenders, the towering Bosnian making himself big and blocking the low effort with his left hand.

Steve Cook made an heroic double block with the interval looming and there was still time for Marcos Alonso to head off target

from Pedro's deep cross.

Jordon Ibe replaced Defoe for the second period, the former Tottenham man having enjoyed little service in the opening 45 minutes. Cherries switched to a 5-4-1 formation with Afobe up top on his own.

Lewis Cook was not shy in trying his luck from range four minutes into the second half, the mid-



CHERRIES

the drop zone



Jose's 'relax' message to United critics

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho hopes to have silenced the critics, holding a finger to his lips after beating Tottenham and telling the doubters to calm down.

Second hosted third on a damp afternoon at Old Trafford, where a cagey clash of the Premier League title contenders looked set to end all square.

However, Mourinho's decision to replace Marcus Rashford with Anthony Martial - a change jeered by some fans - paid dividends as the substitute raced onto Romelu Lukaku's flick-on to fire United to a 1-0 win.

The Portuguese held a finger to his lips at the final whistle and muttered directly into the camera after their most important win of the season so far.

"Some people speak too much," Mourinho said of the gesture. "You know, calm down, relax. Relax a little bit."

"Don't speak too much - speak, speak, speak. You know, relax." Asked if it was aimed at the critics he labelled "Einsteins" or journalists, he said: "Yeah, relax a little bit. Don't be so nervous, don't be so excited. Calm down a little bit."

"The opposition bench did their job, super-correct. It has yet to arrive, the match where myself, Mauricio (Pochettino), my staff and his staff, have a problem."

"We played against each other so



Mauricio Pochettino

many times since Spain, and we have a really good relation(ship). "I'm even happier because we beat a very good team."

It certainly felt like an important win given how well Manchester City have started the season.

"Very disappointed," Spurs head coach Mauricio Pochettino said. "It is very painful for our players, for everyone."

"It was an even match. We lose in an action that should have been fixed before. It's very painful but that is football and I feel very proud."

"The effort was fantastic. The performance can always be better, but we compete and we fight a lot."

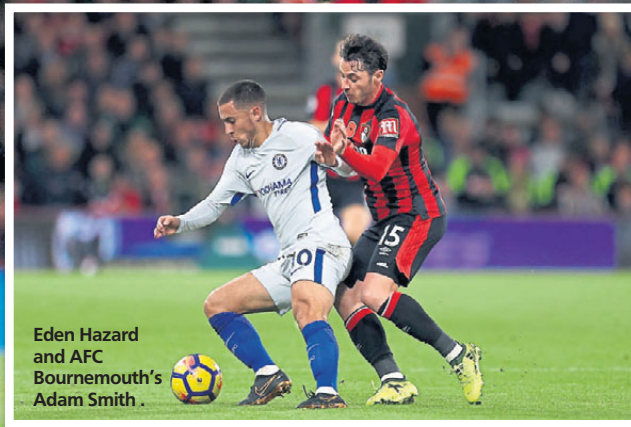
Leading man Harry Kane's absence was certainly felt at Old Trafford, with Spurs hoping to have the striker back from a hamstring injury to face Real Madrid in the Champions League.

"I said before the game to everyone that always you are going to miss your main striker - and Harry Kane is one of best strikers in the world, of course," Pochettino said. "But it is not an excuse today. We didn't lose the game because Kane wasn't here. It is a collective sport and always you must adapt when some player is not fit to play."

"I am happy with the performance from everyone and I think we deserve more than zero points."



Eden Hazard and AFC Bournemouth's Nathan Ake.



Eden Hazard and AFC Bournemouth's Adam Smith.



Eden Hazard celebrates his goal.

fielder's rocket rising clear of the bar.

In the 51st minute, Chelsea profited from a defensive error to forge ahead. Morata chipped an angled ball in behind and skipper Francis only hit fresh air in attempting to clear, allowing Hazard - the best player on the pitch - to swipe past Begovic at his near post.

Cherries had an immediate chance to hit back thanks to good work from Stanislas. But after Ibe lashed goalwards, Antonio Rudiger got a toe in to block and the ball flew over for a corner.

The home side suffered a further body blow when Stanislas appeared to sustain a groin injury and was immediately brought off for Marc Pugh.

And Chelsea should have doubled their advantage after Hazard exchanged passes with Pedro, only to smash over from a presentable position in the box.

Begovic dealt with a regulation effort from Pedro in the 68th minute, preceding a passage of play in which Cherries began to commit more men forward.

But that was halted when Afobe

was forced off through injury, paving the way for Callum Wilson to enter the fray for his first Premier League appearance since January.

The popular striker almost got Cherries on level terms within seconds of coming on but his shot was superbly blocked.

Chances were few in the closing stages, Fabregas going close when he directed high and wide form an acute angle after being teed up by Hazard.

Steve Cook shot down the throat of Thibaut Courtois in stoppage-time, that being Cherries' first shot on target.

Cherries (5-3-1-1): Begovic; A Smith, Francis, Ake, S Cook, Daniels; L Cook, Surman, Stanislas (Pugh, 62); Afobe (Wilson, 74); Defoe (Ibe, h-t). Unused subs: Gosling, Arter, Mousset, Boruc (g/k).

Booked: A Smith, Francis. Chelsea (5-2-3): Courtois; Zappacosta, Azpilicueta, David Luiz, Rudiger, Alonso; Bakayoko, Fabregas; Pedro (Drinkwater, 79), Morata (Batshuayi, 79), Hazard (Willian, 84).

● Slaven Bilic admits West Ham's draw at Crystal Palace felt like a defeat after Wilfried Zaha scored a 97th-minute equaliser at Selhurst Park.

The Hammers looked on course for a morale-boosting victory when Javier Hernandez and Andre Ayew put them two goals in front but Luka Milivojevic's penalty and Zaha's late strike earned Palace a dramatic 2-2 draw.

Bilic admitted on Tuesday this was another "do-or-die" week for his future as manager and it remains to be seen whether this result, on the back of West Ham's Carabao Cup win over Tottenham in midweek, is enough to save his job.

"To concede like that is a killer. It feels like a defeat," Bilic said.

"It wasn't a defeat and it isn't a defeat at this point. It will be very important for us."

"They gave everything again, they ran, they defended, some of them played 90 minutes three days ago."

"I saw them struggling with energy but they wanted to defend, wanted to close them down. We were doing that. It's very, very frustrating."

Bilic's disappointment was particularly acute given his side could have prevented Zaha's equaliser.

Michail Antonio should have kept the ball in the corner but instead he tried to cross and conceded possession.

"Of course I spoke with him. He knows that now," Bilic said.

"He is the one who should keep the ball one against one on the line, forever, but he opted for a cross. Do I expect more? Of course but it's a team game. You take the good and the bad."

NON LEAGUE



Old scores to settle

HAMBLE Club will have a couple of old scores to settle when they host Sydenhams Premier rivals Brockenhurst in the FA Vase next month.

Monks boss Ben Kneller was playing golf at The Belfry when the second round draw was made on Monday – and a text came through from Brock boss Pat McManus.

“Pat texted me to say ‘you won’t need a coach for that one’ and I thought straight away we’d got Sholing, but it turned out it was Brock,” said Kneller.

“We’re happy to be home, but Brock have twice beaten us in the quarter-finals of the Southampton Senior Cup in the last two years.

“Their league form hasn’t been great lately, but Pat knows what he’s doing and they can beat anyone on their day. They’ve already beaten Sholing this season and they beat



Mark Barker.

Blackfield home and away last year.

“They’ve got some good players there. If Will Tickle and Mark Barker turn up, you’re in trouble.”

Kneller and McManus are good friends, but in an ideal world they would rather not be facing each other on November 11.

“It’s a shame we’ve drawn each other because I do like to see local sides go far,” said Kneller.

“Really, it’s best to get a side from a different league when they don’t know much about your players.”

Following promotion as Wessex 1 champions, Hamble are enjoying their first ever experience of the Vase – albeit that they have only faced Wessex opposition so far.

Having seen off Bemerton (3-1) and Petersfield (5-0) at home, they won 3-2 at Romsey Town last weekend courtesy of two-goal Mo Nyang and Ben Kempen.

Hamble boss praises ‘clinical’ Andover

Wendy Gee



BEN Kneller rates new Sydenhams Premier leaders Andover Town as “one of the most clinical Wessex League sides” he has ever seen.

By common consensus, Kneller’s Hamble Club were the better team for the best part of 45 minutes at the Portway Stadium on Tuesday.

They were still in the game when Liam Crook had an effort cleared off the line at 2-1 down with the midway point of the second half approaching.

Yet, come the final whistle, the Monks were on the end of a punishing 6-1 scoreline as Glenn Burnett’s unbeaten sharpshooters surged three points clear of erstwhile leaders Blackfield & Langley with a game in hand.

While Kneller felt Town were lucky to end the game with 11 players, he couldn’t help but admire the efficiency of their finishing.

“They’re one of the most clinical sides I’ve seen in the Wessex League – not just this year, but any season,” he said.

“They go forward with pace and power and have masses of quality in the final third.

Gulf in standard

“They’ll concede goals, but I’d expect them to outscore most teams.

“From what I’ve seen so far, I wouldn’t be surprised if Andover go on and win the league.”

Premier new boys Hamble had things pretty much all their own way last season as they powered to the Division One title.

But the second half on Tuesday drove home the gulf in standard.

“People didn’t push us like that in Wessex One, we could get away with one or two mistakes,” said Kneller. “But Andover really punish you. We probably made eight errors and they scored six.”

The Monks, though, can take heart from matching, if not bettering, their high-flying hosts in the opening period.

“We dictated play first half and were by far the better team, but Andover scored against the run of play on 47 minutes,” said Kneller.

“They scored again, but we came back through Doug Rowe



ANDOVER’S STORMING START TO THE WESSEX LEAGUE SEASON

August

1 Bemerton (H) W 6-1
Zach Glasspool (2), Reece Rusher, Mike Gosney, Luke Dempsey
12 Sholing (H) W 3-1
Liam Gilbert, Reece Rusher, Zach Glasspool (pen)
14 Team Solent (A) W 3-1
Liam Gilbert (2), Zach Glasspool (pen)
26 Newport (A) W 4-0
Shane Lock, Reece Rusher (2), Liam Gilbert
29 Amesbury (H) W 2-0

Mike Gosney (2)

September

16 Bashley (H) W 5-1
Mike Gosney (3), Zach Glasspool (2, 1 pen)
23 Cowes (A) W 5-3
Reece Rusher, Zach Glasspool (3), Mike Gosney
26 Lymington (A) W 2-1
Mike Gosney (2)
30 Portland (A) D 1-1
Zach Glasspool

October

7 AFC Portchester (H) W 3-2
Zach Glasspool, Micky Hubbard (pen), George Hallahan
10 Shaftesbury (A) W 2-1
George Hallahan, Jason Silver
14 Blackfield & Langley (H) W 5-3
Connor Cocklin, George Hallahan (2), Zach Glasspool, Jason Silver
24 Hamble Club (H) W 6-1
George Hallahan (2), Zach Glasspool (2), Micky Hubbard, OG

Andover’s Mike Gosney.

with half-an-hour to go and then Liam’s had one cleared off the line at 2-1.”

When Danny Cox diverted Mike Gosney’s free-kick into his own net for 3-1, Hamble gambled on going three at the back.

But it didn’t pay off as George Hallahan and Zach Glasspool – both netting their second of the game – and Micky Hubbard clinically

doubled Town’s tally.

“We went three at the back because I don’t see the point of damage limitation,” said Kneller.

“It could have swung it our way, but they continued to pick us off.

“Credit to Andover, they worked hard and Gosney made four of the goals. We all know Gos is a bit of an enigma but, if you’re not on it, he’ll punish you. The guy’s played

Conference South football.

“Zach (Glasspool) has a lot of quality too, Hallahan’s deadly in front of goal and Jason Silver’s very quick.

“When the ball falls to them, you back them to score.

“The majority of our lads will never have been beaten 6-1 before, but we’ll dust ourselves off and see what character we’ve got.”

Sports Pink and Daily Echo - always best for local non league news

NON LEAGUE



AFC TOTTEN 2 DIDCOT TOWN 1

Stags upset form book with victory

Wendy Gee



AFC TOTTEN upset the form book as goals by Tony Lee and Alfie Whittingham sent Didcot Town packing 2-1 at the Total Branding Community Stadium this afternoon.

It was the Stags' first win in four league matches and ended a run of three straight league victories for the Railwaymen.

Both sides took time to settle on a bright and breezy afternoon and it took nine minutes for the first shot to arrive – Totton's Toby Adekunle firing a hopeful effort over from distance.

The Stags kept going with a determined run and cross from Craig Feeney eventually resulting in a foul on Jack Masterton just outside the box.

Former Eastleigh striker LEE stepped up to take the free-kick and, cool as you like, beat stationary keeper Leigh Bedwell with the crispest of strikes.

It was Lee's first Stags goal since re-joining the club on loan from Poole Town.

Didcot had the opportunity to do likewise on 21 minutes when Whittingham was penalised for a foul about two yards outside the Totton area.

But George Reid went for power rather than precision and his firm, low strike was smartly beaten away by keeper Shane Murphy.

Totton responded with a succession of corners, one of which came back to the taker, Masterton. He swung a terrific ball into the six-yard box, but Lee was penalised for an overly strong challenge on the keeper.

Totton were playing with a hunger and desire that third-placed Didcot were finding it hard to live with and they deservedly scored a second in the 26th minute.

Lee was this time the architect, cutting in from the right and muscling past defender Stuart Cattell. His delivery sparked panic in the visitors' area and WHITTINGHAM was on hand to slide home.

Dazed Didcot were lucky not to concede a third moments afterwards, but Lee slammed a first-time shot just wide.

On 43 minutes Totton had a good shout for a penalty.

Lee found Feeney inside the box



Tony Lee, left, scores from a free kick and, above, the celebrations follow. Pictures by Stuart Martin.



and the Stags No 9 appeared to be shoved over by Didcot skipper Adam Learoyd, but, to the dismay of the home crowd, nothing was given.

**Half-time:
AFC TOTTEN 2
DIDCOT TOWN 1**

Didcot upped their game after the break and took little more than three minutes to slice Totton's lead in half.

A ball through the middle found

Brazilian striker Felipe Barcelos one-on-one with Murphy and, although the Totton keeper got a hand to it, his shot carried enough power to find the net.

In a complete reversal of the first-half, Totton were now on the back foot and there was relief all round when Didcot sub Seph Humphries' driven cross missed everyone as it flashed across the goal-face.

Lee, who had just gone into the book along with Didcot's Learoyd,

Heartbreak for City in nine-goal Friday night thriller

THE 623 crowd that turned up at Winchester City on Friday night certainly got their money's worth.

A goal-laden cathedral city derby saw the Citizens surrender a three-goal lead against Salisbury before being heartbreakingly beaten 5-4 in the Evo-Stik South West.

Joe Cook scored inside four minutes for City and, when Jamie Barron and Oli Bailey made it 3-0, it looked like being a night to forget for Salisbury.

But Stuart Green – an ex-Winchester player – threw the Whites a timely lifeline on the brink of the break and Lewis Benson built on it early in the second half for 3-2.

Green claimed his second of the night on 56 minutes to bring the scores level only for City to rally and lead again through Bailey, who



Oli Bailey.

netted his 10th league goal of the campaign.

But it was Steve Claridge's Salisbury who finished the stronger – set-piece maestro Benson completing his brace (making it six in the league for him in 2017/18) before Tom Whelan grabbed a dramatic, late winner.

"Football can be a cruel game at times, it really can," reflected City boss Craig Davis.

"All of us are devastated at the way it's ended and, whilst we can look back with pride at vast majority of it, some of the defending was poor and failure to clear lines properly cost us dear.

"First half we were absolutely immense – and it could have been more.

"Their goals just before and after half-time were massive for them and gave them huge momentum to get a third and equalise.

"Great character from us to battle back and get ahead again with Oli, but then a direct free-kick again pegged us back and a cross that drifted in gave them a win in the last minute. Gutting!"

then got a stern lecture after going in with the keeper once again.

Totton played safety first, withdrawing the striker on 73 minutes and sending on Nimes Pina. Whittingham was then replaced by Pip Nolan.

The interruption almost worked in Totton's favour when Adekunle caught the visitors napping with a driving run, but powered his shot wide of the far post.

With the game and the atmosphere becoming increasingly spicy, Totton's Callum Chugg and Humphries of Didcot were cautioned for fouls, quickly followed by Stags' Charlie Gunson.

The countless stoppages at least upset Didcot's flow, allowing the stags to ride out a scrappy, ill-tempered finale and claim three vital points.

**AFC TOTTEN 2
DIDCOT TOWN 1**

NON LEAGUE



Pat McManus.

'7-0 loss was almost entirely Brock-related'

To say that Brockenhurst owed Pat McManus a performance in the FA Vase last Saturday would be an understatement.

The Badgers brought a smile to the manager's face with a gutsy 2-1 extra-time victory over Crediton United.

But, seven days earlier, the visitors' dressing room at Team Solent had been an unpleasant place to be after Brock had capitulated 7-0 to the Students in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

With the new academic year underway at Southampton Solent University, the landslide nature of the defeat was widely attributed to Team Solent having their student footballers back in town.

But, with all due respect to James Taylor's side, McManus insisted the scoreline was "almost entirely Brock-related."

"Team Solent could have had an influx of fashion students - it would have made no difference," he said.

"90 per cent of that scoreline could be laid at our door and ten per cent was down to the Students doing well.

"It was the worst performance at this level I have ever been involved with and our dressing room afterwards was not a nice place to be.

"No disrespect to James and his team, but it wasn't a monumental effort by the Students, it was our own doing.

"After 20 minutes we stopped competing, we kept giving the ball away and their goals were just walked in.

"Front to back we were terrible. I felt sorry for our keeper (Matt Taylor), he was there on his own.

Comfort zone

"But a result like that had been on the cards. We'd been poor against Bemerton and poor against Fareham, having got ourselves into a comfort zone."

Credit where credit is due, however. Brock looked an altogether hungrier unit in the Vase last week - despite losing Mitch Speechley-Price to two yellows midway through the second half.

"To be fair, it was a good response from us," said McManus. "Crediton are a big, strong, physical side but, against the odds, we got through it.

"It was hard work because of the elements and there was no room for the players to hide - and they didn't.

"They got the result they deserved."

It sets Brock up with an all-Wessex Premier trip to Hamble Club on November 11 in the second round proper.

"It's not a great draw for either of us," McManus confessed.

"They will fancy it but, if we can go there with a strong 14, it's a tie we wouldn't be frightened of."

Scott leaves it so late ...

FAREHAM Town edged into the quarter-finals of the Portsmouth Senior Cup on Tuesday thanks to Scott Hamilton's injury-time winner at Baffins Milton Rovers.

It was Hamilton who had put Pete Stiles's Creeksiders ahead ten minutes in, finishing off a good move involving Ethan Jones and Curt Robbins.

But that lead lasted barely two minutes as Lewis Stockford levelled for the hosts.

The rest of the game was fairly even, but Ash Tattersall so nearly put Fareham back in front when he burst clear and shot against the post.

With penalties imminent, Baffins' Max Davies missed a golden opportunity to clinch it before, deep into stoppage time, Tattersall crossed to the back stick where Hamilton was waiting to head home.

Havant & Waterlooville's win over Petersfield Town was infinitely more clearcut.

The Hawks ran riot 9-0 at Love Lane, spearheaded by Alfie Rutherford's hat-trick.

Bradley Tarbuck bagged a brace, George Barker and James Hayter sank penalties and Theo Lewis and Ryan Woodford also netted.

● **HORNDEN** joined the Sydenhams Wessex League's elite group of FA Vase survivors after winning 1-0 at Portland United in Tuesday's delayed first round clash.

The all-Wessex Premier tie remained goalless until the 81st minute when Jack Maloney netted the decider.

Sharing hero status with Maloney was Deans' goalkeeper Tom Price, who saved a first-half penalty.

Horndean's reward is a November 11 home tie against Royal Wootton Bassett Town of the Hellenic Premier Division.



Pete Stiles

Young guns help Brock's Vase win

Wendy Geee



BROCKENHURST'S conveyor belt of young talent came up trumps once again in the FA Vase last Saturday.

Two 17-year-olds played key roles in the 2-1 extra-time victory over Crediton United, operating at opposite ends of the park.

Noel McCarthy-Gardiner started up top and enhanced his growing reputation with another mature performance.

And the same could be said for Brock's highly-rated under-18 goalkeeper Ed Kitcher, stepping in for injured No1 Matt Taylor.

With Crediton packed with six-footers and Storm Brian gusting in, it could have been a daunting experience for young Kitcher.

But manager Pat McManus was happy to report: "Ed didn't panic, he stayed calm, assured and looked very capable.

"Kicking is one of his strong points, so the elements weren't an issue for him. There was no drama at all.

"Crediton's side were all six-footers bar one and, when they took him off, they sent another six-footer on!

"But Ed coped well with the physicality of their side.

"He's a really promising young keeper and I bring him to all our first-team games."

Faced with a Crediton side riding high at the top of the South West Peninsula League Division One East, Brock seized an early lead when Mark Barker met Matt Burt's diagonal pass and took one touch before rounding the 'keep-



Leon Carbayo-Borges

er.

The Badgers suffered a setback midway through the second half when Mitch Speechley-Price was sent off for a second yellow card.

Crediton cashed in with a stoppage-time leveller, but it was the ten men of Brock who triumphed thanks to Dammy Bada's winner seven minutes into extra-time.



Noel McCarthy-Gardiner

Will Tickle picked the ball up on the halfway line, drove past his marker and played in debutant Bada for a composed finish.

"Dammy's ex-Bashley and Blackfield & Langley," said McManus. "He's trained with us five or six times but work commitments stopped him signing earlier.

"Last week was the first Saturday he'd been available. He hadn't played since May, but he's a fit lad and a good, intelligent footballer.

"He's principally an attacking full-back, but you can play him anywhere out wide or through the middle. He's really good on the ball."

Meanwhile, 16-year-old Brockenhurst frontman/wideman Leon Carbayo-Borges has been down to train with AFC Bournemouth.

Manager McManus reported: "They were concerned a bit about his physicality, but impressed with everything else.

"Our coach is going to put him on an exercise and nutrition programme.

"Leon's only just left school and he's still got a lot to learn football-wise. He'll continue doing what he does and we'll use him as and when appropriate."

NON LEAGUE



Mick turns to ex-Pompey youngster to help Gosport



Mick Catlin

GOSPORT BOROUGH have turned to former Portsmouth youngster Eddie Wakley to help drag them out of the Evo-Stik South Premier mire.

The centre-back spent six years at Pompey and captained the academy side before being released from Fratton Park in April.

He picked up the Academy Player-of-the-Season award for 2016/17 and was described by Portsmouth's under-18s manager Mikey Harris as "one of those players who always seems to get on the end of things – in both boxes."

Also new in at Privett Park is midfielder Matty Sinclair on a dual registration with parent club Welling United.

Discussing the two new arrivals, Borough boss Mick Catlin said: "I need some leaders and, although Eddie is a youngster, I still expect him to be doing the right things."

"Matty wants to come and get games under his belt."

"That's the sort of players we're looking for – young, hungry and wanting to come in and make an impact."

Wounds

Unfortunately for Gosport, their struggles continued in midweek, well beaten 5-1 at league leaders Slough Town.

To rub salt in their wounds, two of the

Rebels' goals were scored by Manny Williams, who used to ply his trade with neighbours Havant & Waterlooville.

But at least Gosport were spared one of their own former players scoring against them – ex-Eastleigh and Winchester City frontman Chris Flood was ruled out by a hamstring problem.

Bradley Watkins plundered a hat-trick for Slough, with Iffy Onwuachu bagging Borough's consolation.

Gosport, though, didn't let their heads drop and Rebels' co-manager Jon Underwood generously tweeted: "Credit to our lads but also huge credit to a young Gosport side who defended for their lives and never gave up."

Ollie's praise for Priory teen striker

Wendy
Gee



CHRISTCHURCH boss Ollie Cherrett reserved special praise for teenage striker Callum Butler as his side marched into the FA Vase second round proper.

The 17-year-old was involved in all three goals and named man-of-the-match for a standout performance against Sydenhams One rivals US Portsmouth.

"Players deserve praise when they do well and Callum's a young lad who wants to succeed in the game," said Cherrett in the wake of Priory's 3-0 win at the MA Hart Stadium.

"I only called him a few hours before kick-off because we knew Luke Stone was struggling and the development game was called off. But he came in and did everything I asked of him."

"He worked extremely hard up top on his own and showed real quality."

"The only thing lacking for him was probably a goal, but I thought he undoubtedly deserved man-of-the-match. He's got a very bright future ahead of him."

Second-half goals from Jack Satterley, Chris Senior and James King booked Priory a place in the second round for the first time in six years, banking them a further £825 in prize money.

Christchurch were handed another home tie in Monday's draw and will duel with Sydenhams Premier outfit Fareham Town for a purse of £900 on Saturday, November 11.

Cherrett reflected: "In the first half we were a little nervous and I



Ollie Cherrett

think the occasion got to us a bit.

"We spoke about it at half-time and I felt if we could be more aggressive going forward then we would have a good afternoon. That proved to be the case and getting the first goal was crucial."

Victory stretched Priory's unbeaten run to six games in all competitions and extended their winning home sequence to nine matches.

"Winning becomes a habit, it's as simple as that," said the boss. "Whether it's a cup game or a

league game, it's important to get a positive result. It keeps confidence high and keeps everyone in the right mind-set."

"It's really pleasing to keep the run going and it was the perfect way to end a brilliant week."

Christchurch were without at least four first-team regulars, including influential frontmen Max Wilcock and Luke Stone. The depth of the squad has already been tested this season, but Cherrett is more than happy with his options.

"We have 24 players in total and it's important to keep players fit and give people opportunities," he said.

"For me, we don't have a best 11 and I think that's crucial. When I make changes, I'm not really weakening the side and that's really important going forward."

"You never know what happens with injuries and availability over the course of the season, so we're going to need everyone to play a part."

NON LEAGUE FIXTURES

Tuesday, October 31

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Poole Town v Concord Rangers.

EVO-STIK SOUTH

Premier: Bishops Stortford v Kettering, Hereford v Dunstable, West: AFC Totton v Paulton Rovers, Barnstaple v Kidlington, Mangotsfield v Bideford, Swindon Supermarine v Larkhall.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Blackfield & Langley v Team Solent, Brockenhurst v Baffins Milton Rovers, Fareham Town v Andover Town, Hamble Club v Bournemouth Poppies, Newport IW v Lymington Town, Petersfield v Horndean, Sholing v Hamworthy.

SWL Cup: Bashley v Alresford Town.

DORSET SENIOR CUP

First round: Wimborne v Gillingham

Town, Verwood Town v Sherborne.

PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP

Second round: Clanfield v AFC Portchester (at AFC Portchester), Moneyfields v US Portsmouth.

ANDOVER OPEN CUP

First round: Andover New Street v QK

Southampton.

SALISBURY HOSPITAL CUP

Downton v Bemerton HH.

Wednesday, November 1

EVO-STIK SOUTH

Premier: Frome v Stratford Town.

DORSET SENIOR CUP

First round: Bridport v Weymouth, Swa-

nage Town & Herston v Shaftesbury.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Division One: Christchurch v Hythe &

Dibden.

Saturday, November 4

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Eastleigh v Chester.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Braintree v Bognor, Concord v Gloucester,

East Thurrock v Weston-super-Mare,

Eastbourne Borough v Poole, Hampton

& Richmond v Chippenham, Hungerford

v Havant & Waterlooville, St Albans v

Welling, Whitehawk v Bath City.

EVO-STIK SOUTH

Premier: Banbury v Tiverton, Dorchester

v Biggleswade, Dunstable v Frome,

Farnborough v Kettering, Gosport v St

Neots, Hitchin v Weymouth, Kings Lynn

v Chesham, Kings Langley v Basingstoke,

Redditch v Merthyr Town, Stratford v

Bishops Stortford.

West: Barnstaple v Salisbury, Bishops

Cleeve v Slimbridge, Cinderford v

Winchester City, Didcot v Taunton, Eve-

sham v Yate, Kidlington v AFC Totton,

Larkhall v Paulton Rovers, Mangotsfield

v Cirencester, North Leigh v Bideford,

Swindon Supermarine v Bristol MF,

Wimborne v Shortwood.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Baffins Milton Rovers v Andover Town,

Bashley v Sholing, Blackfield & Langley v

Portland, Bournemouth Poppies v Cowes

Sports, Brockenhurst v Hamworthy, Fare-

ham v Team Solent, Hamble Club v AFC

Portchester, Horndean v Shaftesbury,

Lymington Town v Amesbury Town,

Newport IW v Alresford, Petersfield v

Bemerton HH.

Division One: Alton v Tadley Calvea,

Downton v US Portsmouth, East Cowes

Vics v Ringwood, Folland Sports v Ando-

ver NS, New Milton v Hythe & Dibden,

Romsey v Whitchurch, Totton & Eling v

AFC Stoneham, Verwood v Christchurch.

NEW FOREST CARE HAMPSHIRE PRE-

MIER LEAGUE

Premier Division: Hedge End Rangers v

Winchester Castle.

Division One: Four Marks v South Won-

ston Swifts, Lyndhurst v Headley Utd.

Combination: Liphook v Hayling Utd,

Paulsgrove v Clanfield, QK Southampton

v Winchester Castle.

HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP

Second round: Bishops Waltham Dyna-

mos v Overton, Bush Hill Res v Romsey

Town Res, Clanfield v Christchurch Res,

Comrades v Paulsgrove, Hartley Wintney

v QK Southampton, Hayling Utd v Ham-

ble Club Res, Headley Utd Res v Mon-

tefiere Halls, Infinity v Bournemouth

Manor, Liss v Sholing Res, Locks Heath

v Brading, Michelmersh & Timsbury v

Alton Res, Netley Central Sports v Sway,

Oakfield v Fleetlands, Overton Res v

Moneyfields Res, Portcassian v Golden

Common (A-W), Southampton Uni v

AFC Petersfield, Stockbridge v Liphook,

Upham v Bush Hill.

NON LEAGUE



Buse back at Taunton

EVO-STIK South West table-toppers Taunton Town have announced the return of attacking midfielder Matt Buse from Gosport Borough.

The 20-year-old midfielder joined the Peacocks in the summer of 2016 and enjoyed a good season, including scoring twice in the 4-2 Somerset Premier Cup final win over Weston-super-Mare.

However, due to his studies at Bournemouth University, Buse left to sign for Premier Division outfit Gosport during the summer. Borough, though, have endured a troubled campaign amid a rebuilding process, picking up just one point from 15 league games so far.

Buse - previously on the books of Yeovil Town, Bristol City and Weymouth



Matt Buse

- was set to be included in Taunton's squad for today's FA Trophy tie against Merthyr Town.

● SALISBURY have signed forward Zack Kotwica on a month's loan from Gloucester City.

The 21-year-old joins the Whites after scoring 13 goals last season for the Tigers.

He was left out of Gloucester's squad last Saturday and boss Tim Harris is hoping he will benefit from a spell under Steve Claridge in the Evo-Stik South West.

Kotwica graduated from the youth ranks at Cheltenham and played regularly in League Two after turning professional. He made 35 appearances for The Robins between 2013 and 2016.

During his time at Cheltenham he had loan spells with Bishops Cleeve, Cirencester Town and Gloucester before making a permanent switch to his home city club (Gloucester) in the summer of 2016.

No laughing matter for Poole's Killick

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick claimed Havant & Waterlooville's players were laughing in disbelief about the penalty decision that helped them secure a 2-2 draw against the Dolphins last weekend.

Defender Will Spetch was controversially penalised for handball half an hour into the teams' Vanarama National League South showdown at Westleigh Park.

Spetch appeared to accidentally fall onto the ball inside the area, but the referee deemed it to have been deliberate and pointed to the spot.

Jason Prior slammed in the rebound after Dolphins' keeper Nick Hutchings had saved his initial penalty strike to put Havant ahead.

Poole retaliated with goals from Warren Bentley and Matt Neale before Alfie Rutherford broke the Dolphins' hearts by bundling in an equaliser with two minutes to play.

"The first goal was absolutely ridiculous," said a disbelieving Killick. "It was one of those decisions where the opposition were laughing about it."

"I was talking to their centre-forward and he said he couldn't believe the referee had given it."

"When you have an atrocious decision go against you and an equaliser in the dying embers of the game, you tend to feel frustrated. But we are showing a lot more spirit and, if we can carry on doing that, we will be

okay.

"But we are trying to climb away from the lower reaches of the league and a point doesn't improve things too much, whereas three points would have."

Havant boss Lee Bradbury was not happy either.

"We gave away two awful goals and to concede in the manner we did was poor," he said. "The players showed a lot of character to get a draw, but they know we should be beating Poole at home."

The Hawks have won just one of their last five home league games and Bradbury said: "Our home form is not good enough and we can't hide from it," he stressed.



Tom Killick

Mayes the force be with young Matt ...!



Wendy Gee



TOM Killick is hoping the arrival of Matt Mayes will prove a mutually beneficial arrangement for Poole Town and the promising youngster.

The Portsmouth Academy striker has joined Dolphins on an initial month's work experience loan.

Mayes was an unused substitute in last Saturday's 2-2 draw at Havant & Waterlooville in the Vanarama National League South.

And boss Killick feels the addition of the 18-year-old will give his frontline a much-needed boost.

"Matt is a young lad who is highly thought of by Portsmouth," said the Dolphins' boss. "We hope we can give him some opportunities and that it will be good for him and good for us."

Highly recommended

"We've never seen him, but he comes highly recommended."

"With Tony Lee going out on loan (to AFC Totton) and Richard Gillespie being injured, we are very thin on the ground in terms of forwards. We only have Warren Bentley and Ollie Balmor, so we needed a bit of back-up."

Mayes was born in Portsmouth and has been with his home town club since the age of eight.

In academy matches this season, he has averaged close to a goal per game.

The teenager joins Pompey club-mate and fellow loanee Jez Bedford at the Black Gold Stadium.

● Got a story for us? Contact 02380 424515.

Injured Poole Town striker Richard Gillespie, above.

Matt Neale, right, scores for Poole Town at Havant & Waterlooville. Pic by Jordan Jones.



Love non league? Then don't miss the Pink every weekend

NON LEAGUE

Salisbury vowing 'strong action' after sexism claim

SALISBURY this week vowed to take "strong action" against anyone found guilty of breaching the club's principles of respect and tolerance.

The Evo-Stik South West outfit are investigating claims that Evesham's female physiotherapist Ali Bulpitt was subjected to sexist and sexual verbal abuse by a small section of SFC supporters during last Saturday's 0-0 draw at the Ray Mac.

It is understood Ms Bulpitt had comments directed at her from somewhere in the stand behind the home dugout during the second half.

And in a separate incident in the club car park, it is claimed that comments of a sexual nature were made to her.

Salisbury were made aware of the incident when Evesham of-



Ian Ridley.

officials approached club director Jeremy Harwood, who immediately apologised to Ms Bulpitt along with Whites vice-chairman Ian Ridley.

A statement posted on Salisbury's website said: "We wish to make it clear that we are appalled by such comments and behaviour and will take strong action against perpetrators, including banning

them from Salisbury FC, should we be made aware of any such abuse and the persons who committed it, and the case be proved.

"The club's stance is quite simple: football, both participating and spectating, is open to all creeds, colours, genders and personal persuasions and all are welcome at the Ray Mac - except those who are unable to abide by similar principles of respect and tolerance.

"We have a large and largely magnificent group of supporters at Salisbury FC and we will not allow their reputation, and the club's, to be sullied by a few bad apples."

In response to Salisbury's statement, Evesham United released one of their own.

It read: "As a club, we were shocked and very upset to hear

that one of our coaching/physio team was verbally abused on a number of occasions, whilst carrying out her job for us, by so-called supporters of Salisbury FC on account of her gender.

"We acknowledge the support given by Salisbury FC directors immediately after the incidents and the statement."

Salisbury have offered Ms Bulpitt their full support should she wish to take the matter further.

Vice-chairman Ridley said: "What happened on Saturday is not acceptable at the Ray Mac and we feel for the person concerned.

"What I will say is that we have more stewards than any other club in our league and we take our responsibilities very seriously. Unfortunately you can't have stewards everywhere monitoring every person when we average crowds of 600."

Keeper Max sent off for urinating

Salford goalkeeper Max Crocombe was sent off for urinating during his team's 2-1 win at Bradford Park Avenue, the West Yorkshire club have said.

Towards the end of the National League North match, attended by 533 spectators, Crocombe was given a red card by the referee.

A supporter is also believed to have reported 24-year-old New Zealander Crocombe to police.

In a tweet, Bradford Park Avenue announced: "We can confirm that Crocombe has been sent off for urinating during the game. We are not joking."

Bradford PA club secretary Colin Barker said: "That's correct. He was told by the steward twice not to do it and he went ahead and had a pee."

"He went to the side of the stand as I understand it. I didn't actually see it but the referee definitely sent him off for it because he was alerted to it by his linesman."

"One of our spectators has made a formal complaint so we're waiting to see what will happen from there. But there's no secret about it. It's been reported to the police."

Salford are owned by businessman Peter Lim and five



Olufela Olomola.

stars of Manchester United's 'Class of 92' - Ryan Giggs, Gary Neville, Phil Neville, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt.

The Greater Manchester club reacted to the dismissal by tweeting: "Red Card! Crocombe see red for something off the ball. No one has a clue what has happened."

Former England striker Gary Lineker made a joke of the incident, writing on Twitter: "If that's true, I'd have been given a life-time ban for a s***"

Lineker admitted in 2010 that owing to a stomach bug he accidentally defecated on the pitch during England's match against the Republic of Ireland at the 1990 World Cup.

● Saints loanee Olufela Olomola endured mixed emotions for Yeovil Town on Saturday.

He struck his seventh League 2 goal of the season for the Glovers in a 3-0 home victory over Stevenage.

But he was sent off in the second half for his part in a melee involving most of the players from both sides. Stevenage's Kevin Toner, on loan from Aston Villa, was also dismissed.

Cherries loanee striker Sam Surridge scored Yeovil's other two goals.



Folland's fighting spirit is still very much alive

Folland Sports celebrate Krysty Sullivan-Rose's winning goal at Verwood.

FOLLAND Sports have lost their manager and chairman in recent weeks, but their fighting spirit lives on.

The Sydenhams One basement boys produced a tale of the unexpected last weekend, battling back from 2-0 down for a gutsy 3-2 win at Verwood Town.

Goals by James Guthrie and Russell Dyer had seemingly put Verwood in the driving seat at Potterne Park - but never-say-die Follands had other ideas.

A brace from Charlie Cooper

hauled them back on terms before Krysty Sullivan-Rose sent Planemakers' spirits soaring with a priceless late winner.

Although the league table shows it as Follands' first win of the season, it was in fact their second.

But typically of the Planemakers' luck, their only other league success this term has been expunged from the record books.

Under former boss Bjay Green, they came out on top 2-0 at

Weymouth Reserves in August, only for the Terras' second string to pull out of the league a couple of weeks later.

Green and his right-hand man Richard Elmes have since left the club. They were quickly followed through the exit door by chairman Roy Kingdon who cited a "dispute" with the social club section at the Kings Avenue site in Hamble as his reason for leaving.

But with Jason Simmonds and Bradley Hartill now running

things on the field and secretary Garry Budden taking care of business off it, the Hamble boys are determined to fight on.

A passionate Simmonds vowed: "We intend to keep this club going."

Last Saturday's success drew Follands level on five points with second-to-bottom East Cowes Vics, who were well beaten 5-1 at home by AFC Stoneham. Will Harris, Chris Manning, Luke Beckerley, Tom Hogan and Josh Clark got the Purples' goals.

Great year for the Young Lions

England have enjoyed unprecedented success in this year's age-group competitions.

On Saturday, the England Under-17 side won their age group's World Cup with a 5-2 victory against Spain in India.

Here the Sports Pink assesses the key moments in a year of tournament triumph for the country's young male players.

Under-17

After finishing runners-up to Spain in May's European Championship, beaten only on penalties, Steve Cooper's side roared into the World Cup final on the back of Rhian Brewster's hot streak. Spain were once again the opponents in the final in Kolkata and, despite conceding twice in the first 31 minutes, the Young Lions exacted glorious revenge. Brewster's eighth goal of the tournament came just before half-time and the second half was one-way traffic as Morgan Gibbs-White, Marc Guehi and Golden Ball winner Phil Foden (2) sealed the crown in style.

Under-19

England won the U19 European Championship in July, taking the title for the first time in 24 years with a perfect record in Georgia. After beating Holland, Germany and Bulgaria in the group stages, England defeated the Czech Republic 1-0 in the semi-finals and then Portugal 2-1 in the final,



Nathan Redmond

with Manchester City's Lukas Nmecha scoring the winning goal. Ben Brereton and Ryan Sessegnon were two of the leading scorers with three goals each.

Under-20

England's 1-0 victory over Venezuela in the U20 World Cup final in June brought the country its biggest global title since the 1966 World Cup. Dominic Calvert-Lewin of Everton scored the only goal, with goalkeeper Freddie Woodman saving a late penalty. An England Under-20 side, featuring Saints' Callum Slattery, also retained their Toulon Tournament crown after beating Ivory Coast on penalties.

Under-21

England were unable to match their younger compatriots at the U21 European Championships but still produced a very good performance in Poland. England won a group containing Sweden, Slovakia and Poland to reach the semi-finals, where they matched eventual champions Germany. But a penalty shoot-out proved their undoing as Saints winger Nathan Redmond missed the vital spot-kick after the game had ended 2-2.

NON LEAGUE

QK draw Saints in Southampton Senior Cup

QK Southampton have drawn the plum tie in the third round of the Southampton Senior Cup.

The Hampshire Premier League top flight club's reward for a hard-fought 2-0 win over lower tier Bush Hill Reserves is a glamour tie away to Saints.

Saints are competing in the Senior Cup for the first time since the 1980s to help celebrate the centenary of the Senior Cup.

It will be their second home tie in a row following last Tuesday's 6-0 win over Southampton League club BTC Southampton at Staplewood.

QK are currently fourth in the HPL, having lost just one of their 10 games so far.

But they didn't have it all their own way against a Bush Hill second string who are top of their HPL Combination league.

Indeed, they had to wait until the 80th min-

ute before breaking the deadlock - and then it was via a Callum Drake penalty. The same player added a second two minutes from time.

Senior Cup 3rd round draw

Blackfield & Langley v Alresford Town, Brockenhurst v Sholing/Folland Sports Reserves, Hamble Club v Winchester Castle/Bush Hill, Netley CS/Comrades v Infinity, Southampton FC v QK Southampton, Team Solent v Hythe & Dibden, Upham Res/Priory Rovers v Lymington Town, Winchester City v Nursling.

Solent start new Vase campaign at home

Wendy Gee



TEAM Solent have been blessed with a home draw in the FA Vase second round proper.

The Students will open their Test Park doors to Tavistock AFC of the South West Peninsula League (SWPL) Premier Division on Saturday, November 11.

James Taylor's Southampton Solent University side are only just entering the competition - reward for being the last Sydenhams League side standing last term.

Solent made it all the way to the fifth round in 2016/17, knocking out Hythe & Dibden, Hallen, Helston Athletic, Shafesbury, Bodmin and Croydon before bowing out 5-2 at home to eventual Wembley winners South Shields in the fifth round.

Blackfield & Langley will be treading an all too familiar path to Exmouth Town in round two.

The Watersiders will need no reminding that the last time they visited the King George V Ground last December, they were turned over 5-0 by their Devon hosts, also members of the SWPL Premier Division.

Blackfield booked their ticket to round two with a comfortable 2-0 win at Frimley Green last weekend - skipper Sam Poole striking in each half.

Sholing, the 2014 FA Vase winners, pulled off one of the results of the first round, beating a highly-fancied Highworth Town side who had reeled off 13 straight league wins to top the Hellenic Premier Division.

Second-half goals from TJ Cuthbertson, Dan Mason and Lee Wort did the trick for Dave Diaper's Boatmen, who can now look forward to a home tie against Wellington AFC.



A large visiting contingent from South Shields at Team Solent in the Vase last season.

Wellington, who are kicking around in the basement of the Western League Premier Division, needed extra-time to dispose of Downton 4-3 last weekend.

Vase debutants Hamble Club and Baffins Milton Rovers have both been drawn at home on November 11.

Baffins, who had a single Joel Jackson strike to thank for getting past Radstock Town 1-0, will welcome yet another SWPL Premier Division side Cullompton Rangers to The Kendall Stadium.

Cullompton will fancy their chances after out-gunning AFC Portchester 3-2 at Wicor Rec last week.

Hamble Club can look forward

to an all-Sydenhams Premier home clash against Brockenhurst after triumphing 3-2 at Romsey through Mo Nyang (2) and Ben Kempen.

Ten-man Brockenhurst were forced to extra-time by Crediton United after taking an early lead through Mark Barker.

But, despite having Mitch Speechley-Price dismissed for two yellows midway through the second half, the Badgers dug deep for a 2-1 extra-time winner courtesy of Dammy Bada.

There is another all-Wessex tie in store at Hurn Bridge where Ollie Cherrett's Christchurch will go head to head with higher league Fareham Town.

Christchurch, who had made the most of a reprieve in the previous round, saw off Sydenhams One rivals US Portsmouth 3-0 through Jack Satterley, Chris Senior and James King.

Fareham fell 2-0 and 3-2 into arrears against Ivybridge Town at Cams Alders, but ultimately edged a thriller 4-3 thanks to a brace apiece from Scott Hamilton and Curt Robbins.

FA Vase

second round draw (local ties) - Baffins Milton Rovers v Cullompton Rangers, Hamble Club v Brockenhurst, Sholing v Wellington AFC, Christchurch v Fareham Town, Exmouth Town v Blackfield & Langley, Newport IW v Hengrove Athletic, Horndean v Royal Wootton Bassett Town, Team Solent v Tavistock AFC.

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NON LEAGUE



Flood of goals sees River take over as Wessex hot shot

RINGWOOD'S River Smith entered this weekend as the leading scorer in the two divisions of the Sydenhams Wessex League.

He had belted 23 goals in only 16 appearances - including four hat-tricks.

Two of those have come in his last two outings - a treble in a 4-2 Division 1 win at Whitchurch and all four in a 4-0 success at Andover New Street.

Prior to that, he had netted three times in a 5-1 rout of Downton and also in a 7-3 romp

at Verwood.

Ringwood are certainly good value for entertainment this term - Smith also scored twice in a 5-3 home loss to Laverstock, in an 8-4 reverse at Alton, a 5-1 home victory over Whitchurch, and a 4-2 home win over Folland!

In all, there have been 76 goals in Ringwood's first 12 league games.

Wonder what Tony Pulis would make of that ...

Wessex 1 leading scorers
(league and cup, not including this weekend's games)

weekend's games)

23 - River Smith (Ringwood Town)
15 - Jordan Neal (US Portsmouth)
12 - Robert Gallagher (Laverstock)
11 - Jack Satterley (Christchurch)
11 - Lee Vint (Ringwood Town)
10 - Paul Coventry (Tadley Calleva)
10 - Steve Flynn (New Milton)
9 - Danny Knee (Alton)
9 - Luke Stone (Christchurch)
8 - Brett Denham (Tadley Calleva)
8 - William Harris (AFC Stoneham)
8 - Max Wilcock (Christchurch)
7 - Charlie Cooper (Folland)
7 - Daniel Fox (Romsey)
7 - Scott Sanderson (Alton)

Wessex Premier leading scorers
(league and cup, not including this weekend's games)

22 - Bobby Scott (AFC Portchester)
19 - Zach Glasspool (Andover)
19 - Jamie White (Blackfield)
16 - Joel Jackson (Baffins Milton)
15 - Mitchell Speechley-Price (Brockenhurst)
14 - Nathan Lynch (Hamble Club)
14 - Tom Sands (Alresford Town)
13 - Harry Beckley (Amesbury Town, Shaftesbury)
13 - Sami Makhloufi (Bournemouth)
13 - Dan Mason (Sholing)
12 - Samuel House (Lymington)

Dyche can manage at higher level - Benitez

Rafael Benitez will lock horns with Burnley boss Sean Dyche confident the Englishman has what it takes to manage at a higher level.

Dyche will send his team out against Newcastle on Monday evening as he celebrates five years in his current job, during which he has twice steered the Clarets out of the Sky Bet Championship and established them in the Premier League.

The 46-year-old has been linked with the current vacancy at Everton - from which former Liverpool boss Benitez has distanced himself - and the Spaniard believes he could make the step up if he chose to.

He said: "He's doing a great job. Obviously they (Burnley) are doing well in the Premier League and to be there a couple of years means you have the experience that you need to know exactly what is going on."

"We were talking about last year when we were in the Championship, 'Oh, Rafa has no experience in the Championship...', and it's true that now they have this



Sean Dyche

experience in the Premier League.

"It means they have an advantage. He is doing well. Can he go to another team and do well? I think so, he has proved that he can do it."

Eyebrows might have been raised back in August had it been suggested that Monday evening's encounter would be a clash between the sides currently sitting in eighth and seventh places in the table respectively.

Benitez is taking a realistic view of his promoted team's start, but knows Burnley - who visit St Mary's next weekend - and their manager have learned from their time to date in the top flight.

He said: "I have read that it is a team in his image, so when you have a manager who has been there for a while and he is trying to sign the players he wants and manage them in the way that he wants, in the end, you have a team that knows what to do and they know what the manager manager wants."

"It's a great advantage. They are doing well, they are well-organised, they are in a good position in the table and they play with confidence, so it's always an advantage if you want to go and compete in every game."

Drury: Promotion race is wide open

Wendy Gee



FORMER Eastleigh midfielder Andy Drury reckons the fight for Vanarama National League promotion is wide open.

The 33-year-old believes his current club Ebbsfleet United have as much chance as anyone of stringing a sequence of results together and cementing a place towards the top of the table.

"Keep going and grind out four, five, six results, you'll be up near the top of the table and you get a bit of confidence," the midfielder said.

"Teams are quite similar. The top eight or ten, then the bottom half are quite similar to each other."

"Mistakes get you goals in this league and it's all much of a muchness," he added.

"It's there to be taken."

"There will be one or two teams now you'll see go on a run, ten games unbeaten or something like that, and they'll end up breaking away. We're definitely capable of doing it."

"If you get a bit of consistency going and you're up near the top, then you just keep going from there."

"Who'd have thought Lincoln would have won it last year the way they did - it's just waiting for someone to do it."

Ebbsfleet, though, suffered a setback on Tuesday when they were stunned 1-0 at home by lowly Torquay United.

Fleet's former Gosport Borough goalkeeper Nathan Ashmore was beaten on the hour with a snapshot from the Gulls' Jamie Reid.

Ebbsfleet boss Daryl McMahon - another ex-Eastleigh player - kept his players in the changing room for almost half an hour after the game.

When he finally emerged, he admitted: "It's so far from what we've been doing. That's the curve ball it gives you, when you don't expect a performance like that - and then it



Andy Drury celebrates a goal during his Eastleigh career.

got a bit panicky. I don't know why."

"It's October and we're at home to Torquay. I've said this a million times, we're in a position where I want us to be competitive and finish as high as we can, but there's no pressure on the club to do anything."

"Just relax and play and I thought tonight we didn't."

Macclesfield Town, who had strung together five straight wins to top the table, had their progress blunted 1-0 at Dagenham & Redbridge.

It meant the new leaders coming into this weekend were Dover Athletic for whom ex-Eastleigh striker Ryan Bird was twice on target in

their 3-1 success over Anthony Limbrick's Woking at The Crabble.

Having headed in from a corner inside five minutes, Bird continued his flying start to the campaign with a poacher's finish from inside the six-yard box - his ninth goal of the season.

NON LEAGUE



Top Marks for Spitfires

MARK Yeates grabbed both goals as Eastleigh claimed a shock 2-1 National League victory at high-fliers Macclesfield.

The Spitfires had only won two of their previous 12 league games, while the Silkmen had been knocked off top spot in midweek after their five-game winning run had ended at Dagenham.

Yeates opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time, and he doubled the lead five minutes into the second half.

The former Watford and Bradford City winger had only previously netted once for Eastleigh in 16 league outings.

Danny Whitehead set up a nervous last few minutes for the visitors with a late consolation.

● Alfie Lis scored Gosport Borough's only goal in their FA Trophy first qualifying round win over lower division Bristol Manor Farm.

● Jamie Bulpitt was sent off for two bookable offences as Sholing could only manage a 0-0 home draw with Fareham in the Premier Division of the Sydenhams



Mark Yeates.

Wessex League.

● Manager Matty Holmes has played down Wimborne Town's chances of reaching the Evo-Stik South West play-offs - because of the numerical limitations of his squad.

"I'm dismissing that totally," he said. "It's not even in the equation because we've got 16 players."

"I had two players who had fitness tests last Saturday, then you are looking at a couple of young development boys coming on the bench."

"After that you have got myself, Danny Holmes (coach) and Shane Traynor (coach) - and I don't want to play!"

"I know Danny doesn't want to play either, but we're all signed on because that's the nature of it. If we get hit by three or four injuries, our backs are against the wall."

Having avoided defeat in five of their past six league games, Wimborne travelled with confidence to Paulton on Tuesday.

But they fell behind to an early Joe Chandler header and couldn't find their way back in a 1-0 loss.

That was followed up by a 5-0 FA Trophy first qualifying round thrashing at Thame.



Rhys Evans

'No brainer' to sign Rhys

WIMBORNE Town have brought in vastly experienced cover for young goalkeeper Gerard Benfield.

The Magpies have welcomed former England under-21 international Rhys Evans to Cuthbury.

Evans' professional career took in spells at a string of clubs, including Swindon Town, Blackpool, Millwall and Bradford City.

The stopper won promotion to the Championship with Blackpool in 2006/07 after making 32 appearances for the Seaside during the League One campaign.

Following a recent stint as goalkeeper coach at Hereford, the 35-year-old has relocated to the south coast.

Southern Premier outfit Weymouth were interested in signing him, but Evans has elected to play one division lower with the Magpies in the Evo-Stik South West.

Wimborne boss Matty Holmes explained: "We've signed Rhys on as cover for Gerard Benfield."

"With him being based in the Bournemouth area, it was a no-brainer to get him involved with us."

"He has to work Saturdays and the odd Sunday, so he has warned us his commitment will not be 100 per cent."

"But he is willing to play games when he can and wants to train to keep his eye in."

"Peter Beadle (Hereford boss) has a high regard for him and the fact he cannot commit fully isn't so bad because we have Gerard."

"I've got to have a bit of chat with Rhys to find out what he wants to do long-term, but he has signed for us."

6-1 success was 'a bit fortunate' - Burnett

Wendy Gee



NO ONE could accuse Andover Town boss Glenn Burnett of acting 'big time' after leading his side to the Sydenhams Premier summit.

Despite watching his new league leaders slam six past Hamble Club at The Portway on Tuesday, Burnett was humble in victory.

"I know the scoreline says 6-1, but it was a bit fortunate," he said.

"They were the better team first-half and it was probably the worst we'd played in a while."

"We hadn't played Saturday and looked a bit rusty, but we scored against the run of play to go in 1-0 at half-time."

"The difference second half was that we were clinical and put out chances away."

"But when Hamble made it 2-1, they could easily have got something out of the game, it could have gone either way."

"Once we'd scored a third, we showed that bit of quality and took control."

Former AFC Totton wing wizard Mike Gosney had a hand in four goals, one of them an own goal. Newly-paired frontline duo Zach Glasspool and George Hallahan grabbed two apiece before Micky Hubbard polished things off.

Hallahan has been a revelation since arriving from Wessex One outfit Tadley Calvea.

"George was at Basingstoke as youngster and had scored goals at a higher level, so we knew he



Zach Glasspool, middle, in action for Andover against Blackfield recently.

was capable," said Burnett.

"His Basingstoke contract was cancelled by mutual consent and him and his partner had a baby, so he took a bit of time out."

"A couple of our lads are friends of his, so we kept tabs on him."

"With us having only one striker in Zach, it was a no-brainer for us to try and get George in to help with the workload. The pair of them gel well."

Tuesday's victory hoisted Andover three points clear of Blackfield & Langley at the top with a game in hand. The question is: Can they stay there?

"The way I see it is we're three points ahead with 87 points to play for. Having won the league with Blackfield and gained promotion with Winchester City, I know how things can change," said Burnett.

"We're out of the FA Cup, FA Vase, League Cup and Hampshire Senior Cup, so we've had our down times, but they don't show in the league table."

"I've said all along there will be seven or eight teams up there challenging right to the end."

"Blackfield have got an excellent squad who won't lose many games of football."

"We went to Horndean in the Vase and they're another excellent side."

"When we beat Sholing, the first thing I said was they'd be more dangerous than ever now and more than capable of putting together ten wins in a row."

"With 87 points to play for, I'm not going to talk about winning the title."

"It's been a promising start, but the tough part of the season is coming now."

"We finished 13th last season and our target was to improve. If we can do that, it's all good."

NON LEAGUE



Halloween trip to Devon for Eastleigh youngsters

A DATE has been set for Eastleigh's FA Youth Cup first round tie at Plymouth Argyle.

The Spitfires under-18s are off to spend Halloween night at Home Park this Tuesday (October 31, 7pm).

Eastleigh's class of 2017/18 will be looking

to take the club further than they have ever been in the competition. They already matched the achievements of previous young Spitfires' sides who have played Gillingham and Portsmouth in recent years.

Tickets for Tuesday's game are priced at £5 adults, £3 over-65s, and £1 under-18s and can

be purchased at the turnstiles on the night.

The club has a coach travelling to the game, priced £15 per person. For more info on travel, contact 023 8061 3361.

● Sholing will be in FA Youth Cup first round action at home to Clevedon Town next Thursday (Nov 2, 8pm).

More clubs than a group of golfers!

By Simon Carter



HE counts Eastleigh among his former clubs.

That in itself is not too surprising, though.

For striker Jefferson Louis has played for a lot of clubs in his peripatetic footballing career.

And when we say 'a lot of clubs', we mean just that.

Over 30 of them, in fact.

Louis is one of non league football's most well travelled players, and at 38 he is enjoying one of his finest seasons in front of goal.

Now at Banbury United in the Southern League Premier Division, his early strike at Dorchester last weekend was his 10th in 13 league games in 2017/18.

He then made it 11 goals from 14 appearances with Banbury's goal in Tuesday's 1-1 draw with Chesham.

All 11 goals were from open play, and no-one in the division has more goals in the division if you didn't include penalties.

Going into this weekend's games, Redditch's Dior Angus was the top gun with 13 strikes, including two penalties, followed by Hereford's John Mills (12 goals, but three spot-kicks) and Weymouth's ex-Blackfield forward Brandon Goodship (11 goals, 1 penalty).

Louis joined Eastleigh in 2006, playing just six games and scoring once.

By then, he had already played for Risborough Rangers, Thame United, Oxford United - for whom he made over 50 competitive appearances - Woking (loan), Gravesend & Northfleet (loan), Forest Green Rovers, Woking again, Bristol Rovers, Hemel Hempstead Town, Lewes, Worthing and Stevenage Borough.

After his short spell at the Silverlake, Louis appeared briefly for Yeading before a stint alongside his brother-in-law Richard Parquette at Eastleigh's Hamp-



Jefferson Louis in action for Eastleigh in 2006.

shire rivals Havant & Waterlooville.

Following that, he appeared for ... takes deep breath ... Weymouth, Maidenhead United, Mansfield Town, Wrexham, Crawley Town, Rushden & Diamonds (loan), Gainsborough Trinity, Darlington (loan), Weymouth - for a second spell - Hayes & Yeading United, Maidenhead (again), Brackley Town, Lincoln City, Newport County, Whitehawk (loan), Brackley (again), Hendon, Margate, Lowestoft, Wealdstone, Staines

Town, Oxford City and - last but by no means least - Banbury United.

During his remarkable career, he has scored over 170 league goals in just over 500 appearances.

His most prolific term was for Hendon in 2013/14 when he struck 22 times in just 25 league games.

After that, he scored 15 times for Wrexham in the Dragons' 2008/09 Conference campaign.

blob - Two other ex-Eastleigh strikers also appear in the SPL top flight's leading marksmen

list.

Chris Flood has struck 10 times for goal-happy leaders Slough, while Ben Wright has eight for Basingstoke.

Southern Premier League top scorers (up to Fri, Oct 27)
13 - Dior Angus (Redditch)
12 - John Mills (Hereford)
11 - Jefferson Louis (Banbury), Brandon Goodship (Weymouth)
10 - James Dobson (Slough), Chris Flood (Slough)
9 - Ian Traylor (Merthyr Town)
8 - Samuel Smart (Basingstoke), Jason Williams (Bishop's Cleeve), Ben Wright (Basingstoke)
7 - Bradley Wadkins (Slough), Levi Landricombe (Tiverton).

Ex-Saint helps Blades hit top spot

Sheffield United boss Chris Wilder claimed his side were not at their best despite a 2-1 derby win at Leeds on Friday sending them top of the Sky Bet Championship.

Ex-Saint Billy Sharp's early opener against his former club was cancelled out by Calvin Phillips' volley before half-time, but substitute David Brooks fired a deserved winner to send the Blades top of the second tier for the first time in 12 years.

"We're delighted with the result," said ex-Saints trainee Wilder.

"But I've got to say - and I'm not trying to deflect anything - but if you've seen us play this season, especially in possession, we were quite loose today," Wilder said.

"That frustrated me a little bit because we're usually better in possession and keep the ball better. We allowed them into the game too much.

"I'm not disrespecting the opposition, but from our point of view we'll keep looking at what we're about and how we can improve.

"We got caught up in the occasion a little bit, especially in the second half when they got a



Billy Sharp

head of steam up."

Leeds goalkeeper Andy Lonergan made brilliant first-half saves to twice deny Sharp as the Blades tore into their Yorkshire rivals from kick-off.

Wilder saluted match-winner Brooks, whose first senior goal six minutes after stepping off the bench secured the Blades their ninth win in 11 league matches.

"I'm not going to hide away from the fact that he's a decent player," Wilder added.

The Blades last sat top of the second tier in November 2005 and Wilder added: "Yes we've got a target on our back, we understand that.

"We have to handle the bigger games. That's not being disrespectful to the other games, but I don't think it comes much bigger at this moment than third versus fourth. A Yorkshire derby, two teams having a right go at it in front of 35,000."

Sharp has now scored 197 Football League goals in his career - nine of which came for Saints in 11 starts plus six as a sub following his £1.8m arrival from Doncaster Rovers in the January 2012 transfer window. He left St Mary's two years later to sign for Leeds.

Ex Seagulls and Saints

Some high-profile Saints players of recent times have also played for Brighton.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of them ...

Jimmy Case

A cult hero at both Brighton and Saints.

Played a huge part in the Seagulls' flight to their first - and so far only - FA Cup final appearance in 1983.

The midfielder scored the winner in the fifth round on his return to Anfield - he had left Liverpool in 1981 to move to Sussex - and in the quarter final against Norwich.

Case then grabbed Brighton's opening goal in the semi final win against Sheffield Wednesday at Highbury.

Case left Brighton in early 1985 to sign for Saints, and he went on to make over 200 appearances in a six-year stay at The Dell.

Later returned to Brighton as manager in the mid 1990s, but was sacked midway through the 196/97 season.

Jason Dodd

A legend at Saints, where he made 483 competitive appearances from his debut in October 1989 to his last outing at Tottenham in December 2004.

On being released by Saints in 2005, Dodd joined Brighton - but was



Jimmy Case

restricted to just seven games due to injury.

Russell Osman

Best remembered for his career with Ipswich Town, the former England international made over 100 appearances for Saints between 1988 and 1991. Had a brief spell with Brighton in 1995-96 before ending his playing career at Cardiff.

Sergei Gotsmanov

The Russian striker moved to England in February 1990 when he joined second tier Brighton on a non contract basis. After four goals in 16 appearances the Seagulls wanted to sign him permanently, but could not compete with the salary Saints were offering. However, Gotsmanov failed to score in 16 outings for Chris Nicholl's men in 1990-91 and joined German club Hallescher shortly into the 1991/92 season.

Wayne Bridge

The former England left back made his professional debut for Saints on the opening day of the 1998/99 season. Went on to make 174 appearances for the club before joining Chelsea for £7m shortly after the arrival of Roman Abramovich in June 2003.

Continued on facing page

PREMIER LEAGUE

Murray's a link to

Simon Walter



FOR most Saints fans, this weekend's Brighton team will include several unknowns.

Glenn Murray, who scored twice when Brighton won 3-1 at St Mary's in 2009, is one of the few familiar names in the Seagulls' squad.

Lewis Dunk, the Sussex club's highly-rated centre-half, is the only survivor on either side from Saints' last match against Brighton nearly six years ago.

This is the rest of the squad that has given the Seagulls their Premier League wings.

Matthew Ryan (goalkeeper)

One of six ever-presents in Brighton's PL team (alongside Shane Duffy, Lewis Dunk, Pascal Gross, Davy Propper and Dale Stephens), the Australian international, 25, was signed from Valencia in the summer after 17 games on loan at Belgian outfit Genk last season.

Bruno (defender)

The veteran right-back could make his 200th Brighton appearance against Saints, following his arrival from Valencia five years ago.

Was fortunate not to be sent off after conceding a penalty with his reckless swipe against Everton's Dominic Calvert-Lewin a fortnight ago looked like a bad impression of his boxing namesake Frank.

It cost Brighton their third PL win and Bruno was fortunate to still be on the pitch as Wayne Rooney levelled from the penalty spot.

Has been included in the Championship's Team of the Year for the last two seasons

Lewis Dunk (defender)

A product of Brighton's youth system, the 25 year-old centre-half has made more than 200 appearances for his hometown club, who his family have supported since their days at the Goldstone Ground.

His no-nonsense defending, combined with his ability on the ball, has attracted interest from some of the PL's biggest clubs.

Last season's promotion was a fitting reward for his loyalty to the Seagulls.

An England call-up is surely not far away.

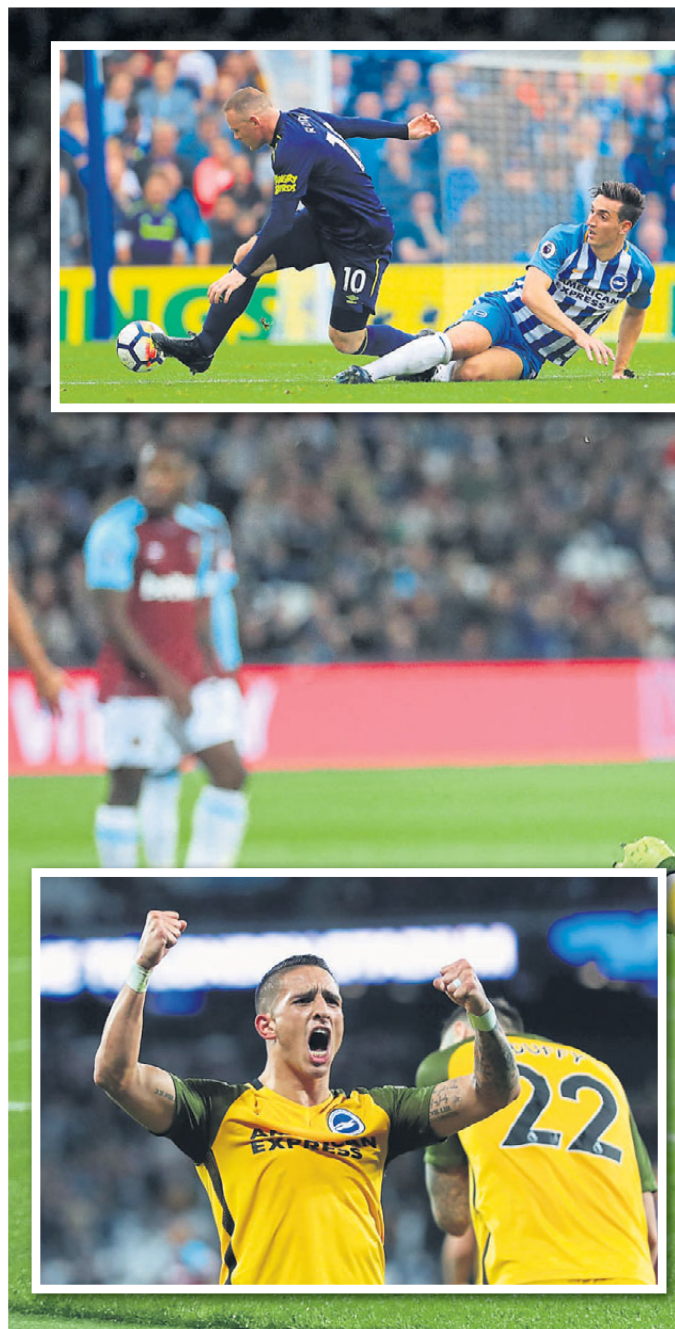
Shane Duffy (defender)

The arrival of the Ireland international at the Amex 15 months ago was a big factor in Brighton going up.

Duffy previously spent two seasons at Blackburn after coming through the ranks at Everton, for whom he made one PL appearance as a substitute

Gaetan Bong (defender)

The former Cameroon international made only his second Premier League appearance in the 3-0 win at West Ham, impressing at left-back behind Jose Izquierdo after being preferred to summer sign-



Lewis Dunk, left, challenges Everton's Wayne Rooney.

Glenn Murray celebrates scoring in Brighton's recent win at West Ham, main picture. Left - Anthony Knockaert was voted last season's Championship Player of the Year.

ing Markus Suttner.

Dale Stephens (midfielder)

Played six games for Saints in League One during a brief spell on loan from Oldham six and a half years ago. Now 28, he has been with Brighton for nearly four years following a move from Charlton. Has been an ever-present this season. Put in a transfer request last year following interest from Burnley, before fulfilling his ambition of playing in the PL. Formed a very good partnership with Beram Kayal in the Championship but the Israeli

broke his leg in August.

Davy Propper (midfielder)

All-round midfielder likely to partner

Yet to get off the mark for Brighton but the Dutch international has scored his first three goals for Holland this season.

The 26 year-old signed from PSV Eindhoven in the summer after a lengthy spell there and at Vitesse Arnhem, his first club.

Pascal Gross (midfielder)

Made history by scoring Bright-

on's first two PL goals, and their first in the top flight for 34 years, in a 3-1 win against West Brom six weeks ago.

The 26 year-old German has made a big impression with his work rate and already looks a snip since his £3m move from Ingolstadt. Versatile enough to play as a second striker or anywhere in midfield.

Dangerous from set pieces and from open play

Anthony Knockaert (winger)

The Frenchman has been a revelation since his move from Standard

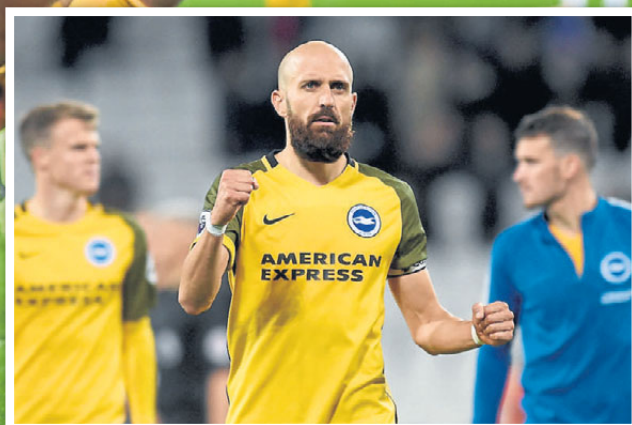
PREMIER LEAGUE



2009 Saints win



Davy Propper
on the ball for
Brighton



Bruno celebrates Brighton's win at West Ham

Liege in January 2016. Struggled to adapt to the PL during his third and final season with Leicester City in 2015. But last year's Championship Player of the Year has made a good start. He scored the goal and was Brighton's best player in last week's draw against Everton.

Jose Izquierdo (winger)

The Colombian international lit up the Olympic Stadium with Brighton's brilliant second goal against West Ham last Friday. Signed for a club record £16m from Club Brugge in August, he has re-

placed Solly March on Brighton's left flank.

Glenn Murray (striker)

Will be full of confidence after scoring twice in Brighton's 3-0 win at West Ham. They were the 34-year-old's first goals in the PL since December 2015, during his one season at AFC Bournemouth.

Scored 53 goals in 101 games for Brighton in League One before leaving for Crystal Palace in 2011 and netted 23 to fire Brighton to promotion in his first season at the Amex.

Tomer Hemed (striker)

Scored in both of Brighton's PL home wins, against West Brom and Newcastle last month, and is available for Saints' visit after serving a three-match ban following his sending off for stamping on Newcastle defender DeAndre Yedlin five weeks ago.

Looked like he might be surplus to requirements in the summer, but has now scored 33 goals in 67 starts since his move from Spanish outfit Almeria in July 2015.

The Israeli international has scored 15 goals in 25 appearances

for his country.

Sam Baldock (striker)

Unavailable tomorrow as he continues to recover from a calf injury that has sidelined him all season

Solly March (midfielder)

The youth-team product from Eastbourne has made a good start to his PL career. The former England U21 international, now 23, set up the club's first goal in the top flight for 34 years and has been an ever-present this season.

Used to play for non-league Lewes and is also a very good club cricketer.

Markus Suttner (defender)

The Austrian left-back announced his retirement from international football in May, shortly after his 30th birthday, before signing for Brighton. Followed Pascal Gross in a £2m move from German outfit FC Ingolstadt 04, following their relegation from the Bundesliga last season.

Tim Krul (goalkeeper)

Signed on loan from Newcastle on transfer deadline day, the former Dutch international has made just one appearance in his two months at the Amex, a 1-0 defeat at AFC Bournemouth in the EFL Cup.

Uwe Hunemeier (defender)

The 31-year-old German has been at the Amex for two years and was on standby to make his first PL appearance at West Ham last week, before Shane Duffy passed a late fitness test.

Ezekiel Scheletto (defender)

Yet to start a PL game but made his second appearance as a late substitute at West Ham last week

Izzy Brown (striker)

The 20-year-old Chelsea loanee has made a couple of substitute appearances since making his full PL debut in Brighton's 2-0 defeat at Arsenal earlier this month. His availability has been restricted by injury played the last 15 minutes at West Ham after coming on for Pascal Gross.

Beram Kayal (midfielder)

A key figure in Brighton's promotion campaign, the Israeli international is close to a return after missing all of the season thus far with a broken fibula.

From facing page

Later moved to Manchester City for £12m, from where he was loaned to Brighton for the whole of the 2012/13 season.

Craig Maskell

The striker started his career at Saints before moving to Huddersfield in 1988. Returned to The Dell shortly after Alan Ball's appointment as boss in January 1994 from Swindon Town.

Fondly remembered at Brighton for the goals which helped keep the Seagulls in the Football League in 1996/97. He was top scorer that season with 14 strikes as Brighton just avoided relegation to the Conference.

Ian Baird

Was Maskell's strike partner at The Goldstone in 1996/97 as Brighton staged a miraculous escape from non league football - they were 13 points adrift at the foot of the fourth tier table at one stage.

Had started his career at The Dell in the early 1980s but was sold to Leeds in 1985, subsequently playing for Pompey, Middlesbrough and Hearts among others.

Went on to manage Havant and Eastleigh and is now Paul Doswell's assistant at National League high-flyers Sutton United.

Derek Allan

Signed by Saints boss Ian Branfoot from Ayr in March 1993, the



Dan Harding

defender made just one Premier League start for the club. Three years later Jimmy Case took him on loan to Brighton, and the move was then made permanent. Made 82 appearances for the Seagulls before moving into non league football to sign for Kingstonian.

Dan Harding

Made his professional debut for Brighton in 2002. Went on to play for Leeds and Ipswich before joining Saints in the summer of 2009. Helped the club into the Premier League but was then sold to Nottingham Forest prior to the start of 2012/13. Later signed for Eastleigh and is currently back in Sussex at non league Whitehawk.

Dean Hammond

Sussex-born Hammond made his professional debut for Brighton in 2000, going onto make 151 appearances before moving to Colchester in 2008. Joined Saints for £400,000 in August 2009 and went on to captain the team to successive promotions. Fell out of favour once Saints had reached the top flight, and went back to Brighton on loan for the whole of 2013/13. Later played for Leicester and Sheffield United before retiring.

How the promoted clubs got on

THE three clubs promoted to the Premier League this season have all made fine starts.

Rafa Benitez's Newcastle, David Wagner's Huddersfield and Chris Hughton's Brighton are all currently in mid table, or higher, after the first 10 games of the campaign.

That has raised hopes among them that no promoted club could be relegated this term.

If that is the case, it will be the first time that's happened since 2011/12.

Back then, Swansea, Norwich and QPR all avoided instant relegation.

Here, Ben King looks back at how the promoted clubs have fared ...

1992/93

Blackburn, promoted via the play-offs, finished fourth while Ipswich were 16th, Middlesbrough were relegated in 21st place.

1993/94

Kevin Keegan's Newcastle made a blistering impression on the PL, finishing third. West Ham were 13th but Swindon endured a torrid time in their first ever top flight season and were rock bottom.

1994/95

Yet again a promoted team claimed a top three finish, with Frank Clark's Nottingham Forest third. But Crystal Palace (19th) and Leicester (21st) were two of the four clubs that went down that season.



David Wagner

1995/96

Only two clubs had come up and one of them, Bolton (20th) went straight back down. Middlesbrough were 12th.

1996/97

Martin O'Neill's Leicester finished ninth - and won the League Cup for good measure - while Derby with 12th. Sunderland (18th) were relegated.

1997/98

The first - and so far only - time that all three promoted clubs went straight back down. The unlucky trio were Bolton (18th), Barnsley (19th) and Crystal Palace (20th).

1998/99

Charlton (18th) and Nottingham Forest (20th) went straight back down, but Middlesbrough (9th) easily stayed up.

1999/00

Helped by the 30 PL goals of Kevin Phillips, Sunderland finished seventh. Bradford, widely tipped to go straight back down, just stayed up (17th) - but Watford (20th) weren't so fortunate.

Continued on facing page

NOSTALGIA

How Adkins stoked

Simon
Walter



Saints v Brighton & Hove Albion reached its peak as a derby during their race for the League One title in 2010/11.

It was a rivalry famously stoked when Brighton fans took umbrage at a throwaway line from former Saints boss Nigel Adkins.

When asked whether Saints and Brighton at the end of the season would be the League One front-runners following their goalless draw at St Mary's in November 2010, Adkins famously replied: "Well, if they can keep with us, maybe."

Four months later, Brighton were top by some distance when they lost 2-1 to Saints at The Withdean.

Midfielder Gary Dicker showed that Seagulls have long memories before the game, saying: "I don't think we have ever been chasing them, but when you hear stuff like that it gives us an extra bit of motivation."

"We're ten points clear so it's up to the rest to catch us."

Brighton went on to win League One, but only after their manager at the time, Gus Poyet, likened Saints' playing style to that of Dagenham & Redbridge.

They also beat Saints 3-0 in the first season at the Amex, but it was not enough to prevent Adkins' side from achieving a second successive promotion, this time as champions, into the Premier League.

Six years later, acquaintances are about to be renewed as Saints and Brighton prepare to play each other for the first time in six seasons.

These are the last nine matches between the biggest clubs on the south coast.

Brighton 0 Saints 3

League Cup, (September 11, 2001)

The first meeting between the sides for 15 years was overshadowed by the events of 9/11 just a few hours earlier.

James Beattie gave Saints the lead on the stroke of half-time at Withdean, ending a 314-minute goal drought.

Anders Svensson scored his first two Saints goals in the second half as the visitors secured their first win under caretaker-manager Stuart Gray to book their place in the next round of the Worthington Cup.

Saints 2 Brighton 1

Championship (January 2, 2006)

Flashback to April 2011 - Jose Fonte (main pic) leaps over an advertising hoarding after netting Saints' late winner at The Withdean. Fonte (bottom right) is mobbed by fans, with the dramatic goal no doubt silencing the home supporters (bottom left) who had brought their anti-Nigel Adkins banner. Bottom middle - Brighton players protest after Saints win a penalty at St Mary's in November 2011.



Victoria Road, Boreham

Dexter Blackstock scored at the beginning and end of this contest, the first league match between the sides for 23 years.

He netted the 86th-minute winner after Kerry Mayo equalised midway through the first half.

This was George Burley's first win as Saints boss following Harry Redknapp's year at the helm.

Brighton 0 Saints 2

Championship (April 8, 2006)
Ricardo Fuller and Richard

Chaplow scored in each half as Saints completed the league double against Brighton for the first time since 1954/55, when the clubs were in Division Three (South).

The Seagulls were relegated as the Championship's bottom club a few months later, while Saints finished in mid-table.

Saints 1 Brighton 3

League One (November 15, 2009)
Brighton were 2-0 up after just 22 minutes of Gus Poyet's first

game in charge of the Seagulls, thanks to a brace from Glenn Murray, whose partnership with Nicky Forster ran the Saints defence ragged.

Rickie Lambert pulled one back from the penalty spot just before half-time, but midfielder Andrew Crofts secured the win with a late third for the visitors.

"This was a bit of a kick in the pants and we need to learn from it," said Saints boss Alan Pardew. Brighton came out fired up and



NOSTALGIA



ElClasicocast fires ...



up for it as we expected – but we didn't deal with it."

Brighton 2 Saints 2

League One (April 1, 2010)

The home side took the lead in each half through Elliott Bennett and Ashley Barnes, but had to settle for a point as Saints twice hit back.

Dean Hammond, a former Brighton player, levelled just before half-time and Lee Barnard equalised in the 89th minute.

This Easter fixture, in front of a Withdean crowd of 7,784, was in stark contrast to Saints' previous game – the 4-1 win against Carlisle United in the JPT final at Wembley four days earlier:

Saints 0 Brighton 0

League One (Nov 23, 2010)

Kelvin Davis saved a late penalty from Chris Wood as Saints took a point off the league leaders.

Saints boss Nigel Adkins said: "We dominated the game. We

were on the front foot from the beginning, we played the game on our terms against an exceptionally good footballing side."

Brighton 1 Saints 2

League One (April 23, 2011)

Saints climbed into second place behind the Seagulls after this dramatic win against a Brighton side playing their penultimate game at The Withdean before moving to the Amex the following season.

Ashley Barnes gave the home

side the lead on the stroke of half-time following a poor backpass from Radhi Jaidi in

David Connolly hit the 84th-minute equaliser before Jose Fonte stunned the home side in the 89th minute, by heading in a Kelvin Davis free-kick.

It was after this match that Brighton manager Gus Poyet stoked the rivalry further. "I said a few weeks ago, with all respect to both teams, they play the same kind of football as Dagenham & Redbridge," he said. "They only defend, they go Lambert."

"If you give to Dagenham & Redbridge Barnard and Lambert I can say to you that Dagenham will be top six."

Saints 3 Brighton 0

Championship (Nov 19, 2011)

Rickie Lambert struck a hat-trick, including two penalties, after Mauricio Taricco, Brighton's assistant manager and veteran left-back, was sent off in the 56th minute for his appeals against the decision to give the first.

A 19 year-old Lewis Dunk was penalised for bringing down Jose Fonte, but it was clearly outside the area.

The visitors' ten men folded after Lambert send Steve Harper the wrong way.

Afterwards, Richard Chaplow tweeted: "Taricco left the pitch saying he had me and @adlallana1 in his pocket! Haha what a belter now get back on that sun-bed with your zimmer frame."

Afterwards he added: "I do respect Taricco for Wat he has achieved in his career by just cant take the him seriously always has to argue hence why he got sent off."

Brighton 3 Saints 0

Championship (Jan 2, 2012)

The last match between the sides was a feisty affair and burst to life after Rickie Lambert was sent off in the 51st minute.

Lambert was adjudged to have pushed Adam El-Abd after the players had fallen to the floor: Brighton were dominant thereafter.

Jake Forster-Caskey, a highly-rated 17 year-old at the time now playing for Charlton Athletic in League One, gave Brighton a 66th-minute lead.

Midfielder Matt Sparrow, now of Gainsborough Trinity in Conference North, scored the other two.

Saints had the last laugh when they were promoted as champions a few months later. Brighton would have to wait another five years before joining the elite.

from facing page

2000/01

Impossible to consider these days, but Manchester City (18th) were relegated just 12 months after returning to the top flight. George Burley's Ipswich claimed a superb top five finish, while Charlton were ninth.

2001/02

All three promoted clubs stayed up for the first time in PL history - Blackburn (10th), Fulham (13th) and Bolton (16th).

2002/03

Better luck this time for Manchester City, who finished ninth. Birmingham were 13th but West Brom (19th) were relegated.

2003/04

Dave Jones' Wolves (20th) and Leicester (18th) both went straight back down, but Harry Redknapp led Pompey to 13th place.

2004/05

Two of the clubs promoted - Norwich (19th) and Crystal Palace (18th) - accompanied Saints into the Championship. The third promoted club, West Brom, finished 17th after starting the final day bottom.

2005/06

Sunderland had a total shocker, and were relegated in bottom place. But Wigan (10th) and West Ham (9th) fared much better. This was the last season two promoted teams finished in the top 10.



George Burley

2006/07

Reading claimed an impressive eighth placed finish in their first ever top flight season, but Sheffield United (18th) and Watford (20th) went down.

2007/08

Sunderland (15th) survived, but Birmingham (19th) and Derby (20th) didn't - the Rams picking up only 11 points all season in a truly torrid campaign.

2008/09

Stoke finished 12th in their first ever PL season, while Hull (17th) just avoided the drop. West Brom (20th) didn't.

2009/10

Birmingham finished ninth and Wolves 15th, but Burnley - in their first PL season - were 18th and went straight back down.

2010/11

West Brom (11th) and Newcastle (12th) were mid-table, but Ian Holloway's Blackpool (10th) saw their PL dream last just one term.

Continued on page 22

Reading are straight back down again

from page 21

2011/12

Swansea (11th), Norwich (12th) and QPR (17th) all stayed up.

2012/13

Reading, promoted as champions, went straight back down (19th) but Saints (14th) and West Ham (10th) stayed up.

2013/14

Cardiff's PL life was short - rock bottom and relegated after one season - but Crystal Palace (11th) and Hull (16th) stayed up.

2014/15

Burnley (19th) and QPR (20th) went straight back down. Only Leicester, of the promoted teams, stayed up - and they only finished 14th thanks to a grandstand finish.

2015/16

Widely tipped to struggle, Eddie Howe's Bournemouth (16th) and Watford (13th) stayed up - but Norwich (19th) suffered an instant relegation.

2016/17

Burnley (16th) were in the PL for the third time, and for the first time avoided an instant relegation. Hull (18th) and Middlesbrough (19th) went straight back down.

Overall, 33 of the 74 clubs promoted to the Premier League went straight back down - that's a 44.59 percentage.



Eddie Howe

62 games unbeaten!

Celtic equalled the Parkhead club's own 100-year-old British domestic unbeaten record of 62 games with a 1-1 home draw with Kilmarnock.

Hoops boss Brendan Rodgers rested a clutch of star players with a view to Bayern Munich on Tuesday night and they struggled to break down a stifling visiting defence until prolific striker Leigh Griffiths struck with a fine finish in the 43rd minute.

However, Killie midfielder Jordan Jones stunned Celtic Park on the hour-mark when he dinked in the leveller.

And, although the Ladbrokes Premiership leaders could not get back in front, they now rank alongside Willie Maley's Celtic side of 1917.

NOSTALGIA

Conspiracy theories

Simon Carter



ALL Saints fans can easily remember their club going from the third tier of English football into the top flight in successive seasons.

After all, it was only a few years ago that Nigel Adkins oversaw automatic promotion from League 1 in 2010/11 and then the Championship 12 months later.

It is not a unique feat in English football, but still fairly rare.

Back in the 1970s, Saints' south coast rivals Brighton & Hove Albion were agonisingly close to achieving it.

And those Seagulls fans with long memories no doubt still partly blame Saints for their failure to celebrate back to back promotions.

Let's go back in time to April 1978, and the top of the old Division 2 table.

Brighton, 12 months after winning promotion from the third tier under Alan Mullery, were locked in a four-horse race for the three promotion spots to the top flight.

Bolton, Saints and Tottenham were the other clubs involved.

It all came down to the last day of the season, April 29.

Bolton and Saints sat first and second in the table, both already promoted barring a freak last day set of results.

Tottenham were third, on 55 points, with Brighton fourth on 54.

If the Seagulls beat relegated Blackpool at the Goldstone Ground in their last game - and Spurs' lost on the same day - then Brighton would claim the last promotion place.

And this is where Saints come into play, for Tottenham's final game was at The Dell.

If Saints won, and Brighton won, the latter were up.

If Saints lost 3-0, and Brighton won 5-0, then the Seagulls would have overturned a goal difference of plus seven in Saints' favour. They would have gone up, and Saints would have stayed down.

Conspiracy theorists were left to have a field day - certainly those in Sussex anyway - as Saints and Spurs fought out a 0-0 draw that satisfied everyone at The Dell.

Spurs were happy to come and defend, while Saints rarely threatened themselves.

In the end, Brighton finished level on points with Spurs after beating Blackpool 2-1, but missed out on goal difference.



Mick Channon is tackled during Saints' 5-1 home win over Brighton in February 1980.

*

Both Saints v Brighton derbies had finished 1-1 that season.

On the opening day of the campaign, Alan Ball fired Saints into the lead at The Dell, only for John Ruggiero to level 19 minutes from time.

It was a similar story at The Goldstone Ground at the beginning of January

On that occasion, Steve Williams fired Saints into a 57th minute lead in front of a crowd of over 33,000.

With 16 minutes to go, Albion striker Peter Ward equalised.

*

The tale had a happy ending for the Seagulls, though.

Twelve months later, they did claim automatic promotion - tak-

ing their place in the old Division 1 for the first time in the club's history.

Albion stayed in the top flight for four seasons, and here the Sports Pink looks back at their derbies with Saints.

Brighton 0 Saints 0

Sept 22, 1979

NOSTALGIA



as Seagulls miss out



Main picture, top right and right - action from Saints' 1-1 Dell draw with Brighton on the opening day of the 1977/78 Division 2 season.



Again, the led 2-0 early on - Steve Williams and Graham Baker netting inside the opening 24 minutes.

Gordon Smith reduced the arrears 10 minutes into the second half, but Ivan Golac clinched victory in the 89th minute.

Brighton 2 Saints 0

February 24, 1981

Goalless up until the 74th minute, Saints slumped to defeat in Sussex to goals from Gary Williams and Giles Stille.

Saints 0 Brighton 2

December 8, 1981

Saints had entered the game on the back of beating Manchester United at The Dell and Liverpool at Anfield in their previous two games.

Third in the table, they were brought crashing back to earth as goals from Andy Ritchie and Steve Gattin gave Brighton a victory that took them up to sixth.

The Seagulls ended 13th, a position which remains their highest ever Football League finish.

Brighton 1 Saints 1

April 3, 1982

Neil McNab put the hosts ahead at half-time, but Kevin Keegan levelled in the 65th minute.

Brighton 0 Saints 1

December 27, 1982

Danny Wallace scored the only goal 16 minutes from time to sentence Brighton to a defeat which left them just one place above the Division 1 relegation area.

Saints 0 Brighton 0

April 5, 1983

A poor result for Saints, considering Brighton only picked up nine away points from 21 games in 1982/83 as their four-season stay in the top flight was ended with a rock bottom finish.

Saints had won their previous three league games - beating reigning champions Liverpool (3-2) and Tottenham (5-2) at home and Manchester City 1-0 at Maine Road - but drew a blank at The Goldstone Ground.

Saints 5 Brighton 1

February 9, 1980

Saints scored more home goals (53) in 1979/80 than anyone else in the top flight.

They were in fine form when Brighton visited, storming into a 2-0 lead inside 19 minutes through Dave Watson and Mick Channon.

Phil Boyer added a third before half-time and, after Peter Ward had replied in the 73rd minute, Nick Holmes (77) and Trevor Heb-

berd (79) ensured Lawrie McMenemy's men went nap.

Saints 3 Brighton 1

September 6, 1980

With the feelgood factor from Kevin Keegan's arrival still sweeping the city, Saints recorded their fourth win in the first five games of 1980-81.

Back from the brink ...

Slaven Bilic was spared further misery when West Ham launched a spectacular Carabao Cup fightback at Tottenham to drag him back from the brink of a crisis.

The Hammers were trailing 2-0 at Wembley on Wednesday evening during a week the manager himself had described as "do-or-die" before Andre Ayew's double and a winner from Angelo Ogbonna eased the pressure for a few days at least.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at managers who have dug themselves out of a hole and gone on to prosper.

SIR ALEX FERGUSON

Ferguson, then plain old "Alex", found himself a target for the terrace boo boys in January 1990 as he took his Manchester United side to Nottingham Forest for an FA Cup third-round tie on the back of an eight-game winless league run. United chairman Martin Edwards was reportedly ready to wield the axe should the worst happen at the City Ground, where substitute Mark Robins' headed winner ensured it did not, and we all know what happened next.

HOWARD KENDALL

Kendall found himself under intense pressure as Everton went into League Cup quarter-final battle with Oxford at the Manor Ground in January 1984. The Toffees were trailing 1-0 with time running down



Slaven Bilic

when Adrian Heath pounced on Kevin Brock's under-hit back-pass to level and spare a manager who went on to guide the club to two league titles, the FA Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup success.

STEVE MCCLAREN

Steve McClaren incurred the wrath of one particularly disgruntled fan, who hurled his season ticket in his direction during Middlesbrough's 4-0 home defeat by Aston Villa on February 4, 2006. Boro had won just one of the 10 previous Premier League games, a run which included a 7-0 defeat at Arsenal, but went on to reach the UEFA Cup final at the end of the season, with McClaren being appointed England boss.

ANTONIO CONTE

Former Italy manager Conte won his first four games in charge of Chelsea, but reports emerged that owner Roman Abramovich was less than impressed by what he saw in the 2-2 draw at Swansea and 2-1 home defeat by Liverpool which followed. He need not have worried - a 3-0 reverse at Arsenal on September 24 last year was followed by 13 successive PL wins and the Blues went on to win the title by seven points.

FLASHBACK, SAINTS V BRIGHTON, THE DELL, AUG 1977



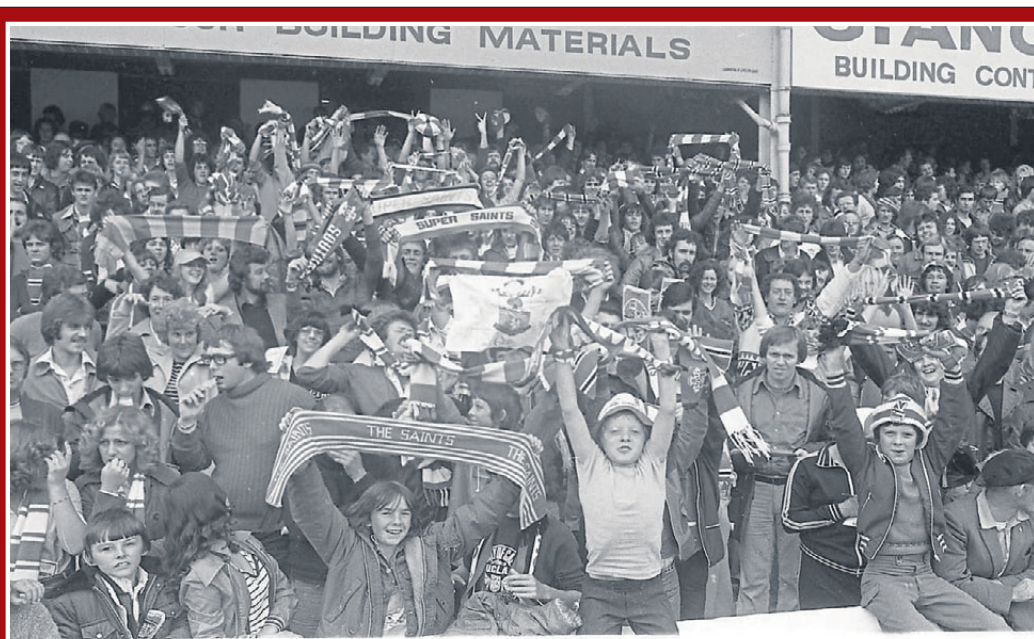
Saints boss Lawrie McMenemy pictured before the home game with Brighton.



Saints skipper Alan Ball shakes hands with his opposite Brighton number, Brian Horton.



Police were forced to eject several supporters from The Dell



The police were certainly kept busy when Brighton visited The Dell on the opening day of the 1977/78 Football League Division 2 season. As these Southern Daily Echo archive pictures clearly illustrate, some fans were intent on causing trouble. What a different world football was 40 years ago. The game ended in a 1-1 draw.



FLASHBACK, SAINTS V BRIGHTON, THE DELL, AUG 1977



Alan Ball tries to close down a Brighton opponent.



'Staying in Las Vegas'

Pedro Caixinha's disastrous reign at Rangers came to an end on Thursday after just seven months in charge.

The Portuguese manager was sacked after a series of poor results and continued disharmony in the dressing room.

However he was regularly in the headlines for a string of bizarre quotes in the media.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS...

"Have you ever been to Las Vegas? What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas, so that's the first thing. I won't tell you what I don't want to (tell you), because that's private. Las Vegas is a great city but if you enjoy too much, what happens needs to stay there."

While trying to downplay reports of a heated team meeting following defeat to Celtic, Caixinha refused to elaborate on what had happened behind closed doors by using this popular phrase to suggest it would remain between the people involved.

THE DOGS AND THE CARAVAN

"I always felt the support of the fans in the stadium. What I need to tell you, and it's a Portuguese saying, 'The dogs bark and the caravan keeps going'. That means that we are focused in our work. We are all together in the same direction."

At the start of the season the Portuguese manager vowed to ignore criticism of his side from the stands and the media by using this bizarre saying from his homeland.

BEST SQUAD IN SCOTLAND

"This is the squad we have for now and we really trust the players we have



Pedro Caixinha.

right now. For us, this is the best squad in Scotland. We just need to give them confidence."

Caixinha has never been able to forget these words from his very first press conference as Rangers boss in March. Despite claiming to have the best squad in Scotland, he managed just 14 wins in all competitions before he was sacked on Thursday afternoon.

"EMBARRASSING OUR CLUB"

"I've told the players, 'You are embarrassing me, you're embarrassing our club, you're embarrassing our fans. Now it's time for you to react, and I'm glad we're playing on Wednesday.'"

He finally snapped after a damaging 2-0 defeat to Motherwell in the Betfred Cup semi-final at Hampden on Sunday. After telling the players they were "embarrassing our club", he demanded an improvement against Kilmarnock on Wednesday but his side were held to a 1-1 draw.

A F***** TOUGH GUY

"I'm polite, I'm educated but I'm a f***** tough guy"

About six weeks into the job, Caixinha got rid of the 'Mr Nice Guy' act and attempted to rile his players into a performance. There was already talk of a dressing room revolt, and his hardened attitude towards the players didn't pay off as they crumbled 5-1 at home to Celtic that weekend.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Will it be third time

Simon
Walter



HE may be nearly 59, but you sense that Brighton manager Chris Hughton is at the beginning of a lengthy career in the Premier League.

Hughton has experienced many setbacks in getting there, including two sackings by top flight clubs.

But he has made a solid start to his objective of establishing Brighton & Hove Albion in the top flight.

He succeeded where many other managers have failed in leading Brighton to the promised land last May.

The Seagulls had gone close to a return on a handful of occasions since they were last among English football's elite 34 years ago.

Their 1991 play-off final defeat to Notts County under Barry Lloyd denied them a place in the old first division and was the start of a downward spiral that nearly took them out of the Football League in 1997.

Brighton have been consistent promotion challengers during their six years at the Amex.

Play-off semi-final defeats against Crystal Palace at the end of Gus Poyet's four-year tenure in 2013, to Derby County under Oscar Garcia in 2014 and against Sheffield Wednesday at the end of Hughton's second season 17 months ago (after just missing out on automatic promotion to Middlesbrough) made finishing second last season all the more satisfying for the Seagulls.

It was the second Championship promotion of Hughton's managerial career, which began after a lengthy apprenticeship.

After 14 years learning his trade as a coach and assistant manager at Tottenham Hotspur, including a stint as No. 2 to ex-Saints boss Glenn Hoddle, a former teammate during his 13-year career as a classy full-back at White Hart Lane, Hughton was given the chance to manage Newcastle United in 2009.

He was in his fifties by then but responded by leading Newcastle to the Championship title with 102 points – 11 clear of runners-up West Brom – and with it promotion at the first attempt.

Newcastle lost only one of their last 33 games during that promotion campaign and by December were in a creditable 11th place with 19 points.

Hughton's reward? The sack.

Yes, seven months after their promotion he was axed by Newcastle owner Mike Ashley (no doubt that made Brighton's re-



Flashback to 2010 and Chris Hughton lifts the Championship title at Newcastle United.

cent 1-0 win against Newcastle all the sweeter).

Six months later, Hughton was back in the Championship as manager of Birmingham City, where he succeeded Alex McLeish.

He led them to fourth place, despite being limited by a transfer embargo during a period of off-field turmoil at St Andrews.

When the season ended with a 3-2 aggregate defeat to Blackpool in the play-off semi-finals, Hughton was on his way again.

This time the decision was of his own volition. The chance to return to the Premier League with Norwich City, who had lost Paul Lambert to Aston Villa, was just too good to turn down.

Hughton led Norwich to 11th

place in his first season at Carrow Road but was sacked the following April, with five games of the season remaining and the Canaries five points above the drop zone.

"The decision has been taken to give the club the maximum chance of survival," said a Norwich City statement.

A month later, Norwich became

PREMIER LEAGUE



lucky for Hughton?



Chris Hughton, right, with Cherries boss Eddie Howe earlier this season.

the next club to regret sacking Hughton at a pivotal time, when they were relegated with Fulham and Cardiff City.

Brighton have been the beneficiaries of all of these experiences.

Hughton reflected on his managerial journey in an interview with the South Shields Gazette in December 2015, at the end of his first year as Brighton manager.

"When you leave a club you have a period of reflection," Hughton said.

"Are there things you could have done better? If I went to another club would I do things a bit differently? They're the normal things you ask yourself.

"I chose to leave Birmingham to go to Norwich, and of course I lost my job at Newcastle and Nor-

wich.

"In both those circumstances, you reflect on where you could have done better but, always, my first thought was to look forward. On both of those occasions I was out watching a game the following Saturday."

It was eight months after his Norwich sacking that Hughton took over as manager at the

Amex.

He succeeded Sami Hyypia, who resigned during the 2014 Christmas programme, with Brighton in the Championship's relegation zone.

Hughton began the new year as Brighton boss, winning his first two games in charge and ending the season with another notable entry on his CV as the Seagulls finished six points above the relegation zone.

He followed that by leading Brighton to third place in the Championship, with a points tally of 89 that would have been good enough for automatic promotion in many other seasons.

They missed out on second place to Middlesbrough, who denied them the win they needed from their final game of the season at the Riverside Stadium.

Injuries cost Hughton's side in the play off-semi finals, where they were beaten by a Sheffield Wednesday side that had finished 15 points below them.

But that only seemed to strengthen Brighton's resolve.

Last year they bettered their 2015/16 points tally by four to claim automatic promotion as runners-up.

With promotion already assured, Brighton took only a solitary point from their last three matches as Newcastle pipped them to the title.

It would take a lot more than that disappointment to tarnish theirs and Hughton's achievement.

Finally, Hughton has the chance he has worked so hard for.

Whatever happens this season, it is hard to see him being sacked by a Premier League club for a third time after what he has achieved at the Amex.

Hughton is under contract until 2020 and last week's 3-0 win against West Ham, for whom he played in the twilight of his playing career after being brought up near Upton Park, was a coming of age for both him and his Brighton side.

One of only four English managers in the Premier League - alongside Sean Dyche, Eddie Howe and Roy Hodgson - his Brighton side will now feel like it belongs as they await Saints' visit.

Worst cup draws ever!

The "minor technical glitch" which delayed the draw for the Carabao Cup quarter-finals by an hour was by no means the first to leave onlookers confused and frustrated. Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at six other oddities.

2017-18 CARABAO CUP FIRST AND SECOND ROUND DRAWS

The draw for the first round of the newly-named competition in June descended into farce when the live Facebook video began without sound and then promptly crashed before Charlton appeared to be paired with both Exeter and Cheltenham. There was confusion at the second round draw when the Football League revealed four ties had been drawn incorrectly, and consternation when it was announced that the selections for the third round would be made in Beijing at 4.15am.

2007 SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL DRAW

In perhaps the most extraordinary instance, Scottish Parliament presiding officer Alex Fergusson mixed up the numbers and misallocated the ties when drawing out just four balls. He announced that Rangers would play Aberdeen, while Hearts would face Dundee United. The actual ties were Rangers against Hearts and Aberdeen versus Dundee United. United chairman Eddie Thompson was furious, telling BBC Sport: "It's a total farce. I've spent four hours on the phone with Hearts arranging when the game would be played, where the game would be played and so on."

1982 WORLD CUP DRAW

Sepp Blatter, general secretary of FIFA at the time, presided over one of the more farcical draws. Chaos ensued after a series of cock-ups which saw the balls representing Peru and Chile completely left out of the draw, Scotland were put into the pot Argentina should have gone into and the cage containing the balls jammed, with one even falling out and breaking.

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP DRAW

The draw for this competition has a recent history of howlers. In 2013 Radio 5 live presenter Richard Bacon mispronounced Workington as Woking Town and Hull KR were announced as playing two different opponents. Two years later, the figures on the number 10 ball fell off, while in 2016 the name of East Leeds ARLFC was read out twice and Stanningley's name was not read out at all.

2016 SCOTTISH CUP DRAW

Scottish FA officials were left red-faced again after being forced to re-do the quarter-final draw. Dumbarton and Dundee were waiting to find out who they would play, only for SFA president Alan McRae to notice that a ball had already popped open.

2016 SCOTTISH CUP DRAW... AGAIN!

Rock star Rod Stewart conducted last season's fifth round draw with much, shall we say, enthusiasm. The singer caused a stir with his bizarre antics, appearing to jokingly prod SFA president Alan McRae under the podium and drawing each team with a flamboyant gesture. The Celtic fan belted out the numbers he had drawn and let out a cheer when he gave Brendan Rodgers' side a home tie.

Damaging time for FA

Football Association chairman Greg Clarke has said the governing body has "lost the trust of the public" and promised a "top to bottom" cultural review.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the timeline of a damaging 12 weeks for the FA.

August 7

The Daily Mail reveals that England Women's team player Eni Aluko made allegations of bullying and harassment against team manager Mark Sampson and his staff in May 2016. An FA investigation concluded in March and cleared Sampson and his staff of wrongdoing - but Aluko was paid a settlement in a confidentiality agreement, which the FA insisted was to avoid disruption to England's Euro 2017 campaign.

August 16

Details of an allegation made by Aluko emerge, claiming Sampson made a remark towards another player with "racial and prejudicial connotations". Sampson is alleged to have made reference to the number of times a player had been arrested.

August 17

As pressure grows for more details to be made public, the FA releases a statement from Sampson saying he welcomed the investigation and would be looking to improve his communication skills.

August 21

Aluko speaks publicly on the matter



Eni Aluko

for the first time and alleges Sampson made a racist comment to her ahead of an England game. After telling Sampson she had relatives coming from Nigeria to watch the game, Aluko claims Sampson replied: "Well make sure they don't come over with Ebola."

August 22

The Professional Footballers' Association backs calls for a new investigation into how Aluko's complaints were handled.

September 5

Sampson speaks publicly for the first time about the allegations and says his conscience is clear.

September 11

Damian Collins, chair of the parliamentary culture, media and sport select committee, tells the Guardian the committee is very concerned about the matter and will summon senior executives from the FA to answer questions.

September 12

Sampson appears to contradict evidence he gave to the inquiry when he tells a press conference he cannot recall ever having a conversation about Ebola with Aluko.

Continued on facing page

SAINTS

The curse of the

Simon Carter



RONALD Koeman this week became the latest ex-Saints boss to find out the grass isn't always greener away from the south coast.

The club have had a lot of managers since the Premier League era back in 1992 - Mauricio Pellegrino the 20th boss in a quarter of a century.

Recent times have not been kind to some of them.

Nigel Adkins and Alan Pardew were both sacked in 2016, while Dave Jones, Harry Redknapp, Gordon Strachan and now Koeman have left their jobs this year.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at how Saints' bosses since 1992 have fared after leaving the club. A word of warning to new Leicester manager Claude Puel - you may not want to read on ...

Ian Branfoot

Branfoot became one of the first managers ever sacked in the Premier League when he was dismissed by Saints in January 1994.

The following summer, he was back in management at Fulham who had just been relegated to the fourth tier.

Initial signs were promising as he steered the West London club to eighth in 1994/95, but he moved upstairs to become General Manager in February 1996 with Fulham second bottom of the Football League.

Branfoot's former Saints defender Micky Adams took over and, after guiding the club to safety, won the fourth tier title in his first full season, 1996/97.

Branfoot has never managed at any first team level since leaving Fulham.

Alan Ball

Surprisingly quit The Dell to take over at Manchester City after guiding Saints to a 10th place finish in 1994/95 - the club's highest ever PL finish at the time.

Ball would never enjoy such heights again. In his first season at Maine Road City were relegated from the top flight - Saints ironically staying up on goal difference instead.

Ball resigned after just three matches of the 1997/98 season, and the following February returned to Fratton Park for a second spell as Pompey boss.

He managed to keep the club up, but Manchester City weren't so lucky - they went down into the third tier after a second successive relegation.

Ball, having been sacked by



Paul Sturrock, above, took Sheffield Wednesday and Swindon up after leaving Saints, but is currently out of football

Gordon Strachan, main picture, left his role as Scotland boss earlier this month. Left - Dave Jones and Stuart Gray. Neither are currently managing anywhere.

Pompey in January 1989, was then dismissed by the club for a second time in December 1999. The England World Cup winner never worked in professional football again.

Dave Merrington

Sacked by Saints after just one season in charge, 1995/96. That

remained his one and only professional football managerial role and since the early part of this century has commentated on Saints' games for Radio Solent.

Graeme Souness

The former Rangers and Liverpool boss resigned as Saints manager after just one season, 1996/97.

He subsequently took over as Torino boss but was sacked after four months. A spell with Benfica saw him last 18 months in Portugal.

Returning to England, he took over at Blackburn and enjoyed arguably his best spell in the Premier League.

After leading Rovers back into the top flight in his first season,

SAINTS



ex-Saints boss!



Glenn Hoddle, below, is unveiled as Wolves boss in 2004. He quit two years later and has not managed since.



2000/01, the Lancashire club won the League Cup in 2001/02 - beating Tottenham in the final - and finished sixth in 2002/03.

Moving to Newcastle in September 2004, the Magpies could only finish 14th in Souness' first season on Tyneside. In February 2006, with the club in the bottom half again, he was sacked. He has never managed professionally

since, and these days works as a regular TV pundit.

Dave Jones

Has had a mixed bag of results since leaving The Dell in January 2000.

Took Wolves into the Premier League in 2002/03, only to be relegated 12 months later and sacked

in November 2004.

He later guided Cardiff City to the 2008 FA Cup final, but was unable to deliver Premier League football - the Bluebirds losing the 2010 Championship play-off final to Blackpool. He was sacked 12 months later.

Appointed Sheffield Wednesday boss in March 2012, Jones guided the Owls to automatic promo-

tion from League 1 before he was sacked in December 2013.

Jones took over at League 2 strugglers Hartlepool last January, and was - for the fourth time since leaving Saints - sacked with two games remaining with Pools heading towards non league football.

Glenn Hoddle

Hoddle's managerial career never hit any big heights after he walking out on Saints to take over his beloved Tottenham in April 2001.

After two seasons of underachievement, Hoddle was sacked in September 2003 after a 3-1 home defeat to - irony of ironies - Saints. He later took over at Wolves - following Dave Jones' sacking - but resigned at the end of 2005/06. Surprisingly, given his background and coaching pedigree, he has never worked in professional football again.

Stuart Gray

Handed the Saints job in the summer of 2001 on a permanent basis, after initially replacing Glenn Hoddle as caretaker, Gray was sacked after just eight games of 2001/02. His next permanent managerial role was at Northampton, from December 2006 through to September 2009 when he was sacked - the Cobblers having been relegated in 2008/09 from League 1. Later spent 18 months in charge of Championship club Sheffield Wednesday, where he was sacked in the summer of 2015 and replaced by Carlos Carvalhal.

Gordon Strachan

Still fondly remembered by Saints fans for leading them club to the 2003 FA Cup final, and an eighth place PL finish in the same season.

Stepping down as Saints boss in February 2004, he resurfaced as Celtic manager in the summer of 2005. He guided the Hoops to three successive Scottish League titles but resigned after Rangers won the title in 2008/09.

Returning to England, Strachan was appointed Middlesbrough boss in October 2009. He left by mutual consent 12 months later with Boro stagnating in the Championship.

Appointed Scotland boss in January 2013, Strachan failed to qualify for the finals of a major tournament and resigned earlier this month after missing out on the World Cup qualifying play-offs.

Paul Sturrock

After his 13-game spell as Saints boss ended two matches into the 2004/05 campaign, Sturrock was quickly back in work at Sheffield Wednesday. There, he guided the Owls to League 1 promotion - via the play-offs - and as a result went head to head with relegated Saints in the Championship in 2005/06.

Continued on page 30

Damaging 12 weeks for FA

from facing page

September 19

Every member of the starting XI races to the bench to celebrate with Sampson after Nikita Parris nets opener for England in 6-0 World Cup qualifying win over Russia in Tranmere. The exuberant scenes spark criticism from Aluko, who suggests it was a sign of "disrespect" towards her from within the ranks of the Lionesses.

September 20

Sampson is sacked. In a statement the FA says safeguarding allegations were made against him in 2014 relating to his time as Bristol Academy manager. It said the current FA leadership was only made aware of a full report of that investigation the previous week and the report revealed "clear evidence of inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour by a coach".

October 18

Katharine Newton's report is made public. Having initially cleared Sampson of bullying and racism, she changes her mind and decides he did twice make "ill-judged attempts at humour, which, as a matter of law, were discriminatory on grounds of race". The FA apologises to Aluko and team-mate Drew Spence. Aluko alleged in a Digital, Culture, Media and Sport committee hearing that the FA asked her to issue a statement saying the governing body was not institutionally racist, in order to receive her full settlement.



Martin Glenn

Aluko says she refused to write such a statement. FA chief executive Martin Glenn rejected her version of events and Aluko added that there was "an agenda to protect Mark Sampson, and an agenda to protect the FA's reputation". It emerged that Sampson received nine months of his salary on being dismissed.

October 19

FA to investigate a claim by Aluko - who is of African descent - that England women's goalkeeping coach Lee Kendall repeatedly spoke to her in a Caribbean accent.

October 20

Former NBA star John Amaechi says Clarke told him he would not risk pushing through reforms on diversity because it would get him "f**king fired".

October 22

Former FA board member Heather Rabbatts claimed Dan Ashworth's position as FA technical director is "untenable".

October 26

Clarke admitted the governing body has "lost the trust of the public" and promised a "top to bottom" cultural review of the national football centre at St George's Park.

'We've lost public trust'

Greg Clarke this week said the Football Association has lost public trust and promised a full cultural review of its operations in a speech to FA Council members.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the key points made.

On the FA losing public trust

"I believe what the last few weeks have exposed is how out of step we are. We have lost the trust of the public. The trust of the football participating community. And we do need that trust - it is the bedrock of everything we should be about."

On the way forward

"We need to be an organisation of this time. If we wish to earn the trust of our country we need to focus on simplifying our mandate in order to be competent, embrace inclusivity in order to reflect our society and harness the expertise of



Greg Clarke

senior players and managers who can make a huge contribution going forward."

On FA reform plans

"We will conduct a full cultural review, top to bottom, of all SGP (FA headquarters St George's Park) operations with a focus on improving its inclusivity and our collective care for players. Performance and a positive culture must not be an either or choice."

On FA research into the views of fans

"Our own insight tracking shows that only 27% of football fans think we are competent and even less, 24%, have a positive perception of the FA."

On three reasons for the public loss of trust in the FA

"1 - Our remit is large and complex and we are not seen to display high levels of competence."

Continued on facing page

SAINTS

Whatever happened

From page 29

Sacked by Wednesday in October 2006, Sturrock was appointed Swindon boss the following month and, by the end of the season, had overseen promotion from League 2.

Appointed Southend boss in 2010, Sturrock was sacked in March 2013 with the Essex club ninth in League 2. It seemed a tad harsh, as the dismissal came just two games before Sturrock was due to lead Southend out at Wembley in the JPT final.

Sturrock's last job in football was at Yeovil Town. Appointed in April 2015, he was sacked the following December.

Steve Wigley

A shock choice by chairman Rupert Lowe to replace Sturrock, Wigley was promoted from his role as youth team manager. He lasted just 14 league games, winning just one of them, before he was sacked. Wigley has never accepted a permanent manager's job again, instead concentrating on coaching and assistant manager duties. He has been involved with Fulham's academy since the summer of 2015.

Harry Redknapp

A flop during his 11 month spell at St Mary's, Redknapp became a hero at Pompey for a second time after a) keeping the club in the Premier League and b) winning the 2008 FA Cup.

He resigned in October 2008 to take over at White Hart Lane, and laid the foundations for Tottenham to become a regular top four challenger.

Despite leading Spurs to their second fourth-placed finish in three years, and missing out on Champions League qualification only due to Chelsea winning the competition, Redknapp was sacked in June 2012.

Moving onto QPR in November 2012, he couldn't keep Rangers in the Premier League but, helped by the goals of Charlie Austin, won the Championship play-off final 12 months later.

Resigning as QPR boss in February 2015, Redknapp later managed Jordan for two games before surprisingly being appointed, aged 70, as Birmingham boss in April 2017. Though he kept the Blues up, he was sacked in September.

George Burley

His star was high on replacing Harry Redknapp in December 2005 following impressive spells as Derby and Hearts manager. Though he took Saints to the Championship play-off semi-finals in his first full season,



Alan Pardew, above, was sacked by Palace last year.



Mark Wotte, seen here with Paul Wotton in 2008, is currently the performance director at the Moroccan FA.

2006/07, Saints were going backwards when he accepted the Scotland national job in January 2008.

He won only three of his 14 games in charge before being sacked in November 2009.

Returning to club management at Crystal Palace in the summer of 2010, Burley was sacked after a 3-0 south London derby loss at Millwall on New Year's Day 2011.

His only managerial position since then was in 2012 with Cypriot team Apollon Limassol, where he lasted just two matches!

Nigel Pearson

Brought in during Leon Crouch's time as Saints' football board chairman, Pearson was not kept on when Rupert Lowe returned to power in the summer of 2008 along with former rival Michael Wilde. Pearson went on to have the last laugh, joining Leicester and taking them to the League 1 title at the first attempt.

After then taking the Foxes to the Championship play offs at the first attempt, he left in the summer of 2010 to join Hull City.

In November 2011, he returned to Leicester and, after a play-off semi final loss in 2013/13, took them to the Championship title 12 months later.

Pearson had signed unknown striker Jamie Vardy from non league Fleetwood in the summer of 2012 and two years later brought in £400,000 midfielder Rihad Mahrez from French football.

Those two were key men when the Foxes stunned the footballing world by winning the Premier League title in 2016.

Sadly for Pearson, having laid

SAINTS



to Jan Poortvliet ...?



Jan Poortvliet didn't win many games as Saints boss - but he did like striking a James Bond type pose when an Aston Martin appeared at Staplewood!

foundations with some canny signings, he wasn't around to see it.

He had been sacked in May 2015, a club statement saying "the working relationship between Nigel and the Board was no longer viable." The sacking was linked to his son James' role in a racist sex tape made by three Leicester reserve players in Thailand during a post-season tour.

After a year out of football, Pearson returned to management at Derby in the summer of 2016. He lasted just a few months before

leaving 'by mutual consent' after rows with the Rams' hierarchy.

Last month he was appointed manager of Belgian League second tier club OH Leuven. Strangely, they are also owned by the same King Power Group who own Leicester.

Jan Poortvliet

Poor Jan Poortvliet. Given the most inexperienced squad in Saints' history by chairman Rupert Lowe, the Dutchman - who had played for his country in the 1978 World Cup final - was always

onto a loser. So it proved, and he was sacked in mid January with Saints embroiled in a Championship relegation battle they eventually lost.

Moving back to his native Netherlands, he managed FC Eindhoven, Telstar and Den Bosch. He is now in charge of Qingdao Red Lions, a team in the fourth tier of Chinese football.

Mark Wotte

Poortvliet's fellow Dutchman, who had arrived at St Mary's alongside him, was given the

chance of keeping Saints in the second tier. This he failed to do, and as soon as the Markus Liebherr takeover was complete he was sacked.

Later managed Romanian club Universitatea Craiova and Egyptian outfit Ismaily before a surprise return to the British Isles in 2011 to take over as the Scottish FA's performance director. He lasted three years north of the border and is now the performance director for the Moroccan FA, mainly working with the country's under-20 team.

Alan Pardew

Controversially sacked by chairman Nicola Cortese at the end of August 2010, Pardew was back in the Premier League four months later at Newcastle. An eventful reign saw him win the PL's manager of the season award in 2011/12 for guiding the Magpies to fifth place. He left in December 2014 after accepting an offer to manage one of the clubs he had played for, Crystal Palace. Pardew kept the Eagles in the top flight and also led them to the 2015/16 FA Cup final. There they took the lead against Manchester United, through ex-Saint Jason Puncheon, but ended up losing after extra time. He was sacked three days before last Christmas with Palace embroiled in a relegation scrap. Is currently a Sky Sports pundit.

Nigel Adkins

The man who guided Saints to back to back promotions is currently without a job after being dismissed twice since he was controversially sacked by Nicola Cortese in January 2013.

Appointed Reading manager two months later, he was unable to keep the Royals in the Premier League and was sacked in December 2014 with the club mid-table in the Championship. Appointed Sheffield United boss in the summer of 2015, he was sacked at the end of the season after the Blades failed to make the League 1 play-offs. Indeed, they finished 11th - the club's lowest finish since 1983. Adkins' successor, Chris Wilder, then led the club to the League 1 title, helped by the goals of ex-Saint Billy Sharp - who Adkins had signed for United.

Mauricio Pochettino

Mauricio Pochettino was a surprise choice to replace Nigel Adkins, especially as he had never worked in England before and had been sacked by Espanyol just a few months earlier.

Less than five years later, he would be one of the most in-demand managers in world football if he chose to leave Tottenham.

Continued on page 34

'We've lost public trust'

from facing page

2 despite efforts to increase inclusion (especially the recent additions to Council) we currently have an all-white Board and senior executive team and only one BAME head coach across the England teams; 3 unlike virtually every other national association I meet, we do not embrace the talents of senior players and managers in running and governing the FA."

On the image of the FA

"We have not earned the right to be listened to because people look at the FA and they don't see an organisation that reflects society trying to make football better or easier for them - they simply see an organisation that at best is not relevant to them and their enjoyment of the game. They don't see an organisation they can trust to be on their side."

On the FA's performance at the DCMS hearing

((into Eni Aluko's complaints against former England women's manager Mark Sampson))

"The judgement of the politicians, the judgement of the media and most importantly the judgement of the public was very clear - we had failed Eni Aluko, Drew Spence and Lianne Sanderson. We have apologised to them and I reiterate that apology again today."

On plans to put whistleblowing and grievance procedures in place

"This issue arose because we did not have the right whistleblowing or grievance procedures in place for an elite England player. We will fix that and are already working hard with UK Sport to ensure that by December that is in place."

On his own performance at the DCMS hearing when he said 'putting aside all the fluff about institutional racism'

"Last week I was rightly castigated for using the term 'fluff'. It was a terrible word to use and I deeply regret it."

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Is there a curse on ex-Saints managers?

From page 31

After guiding Saints to an eighth place finish in 2014, the Argentine walked out on the club to join Spurs.

Continued on page 31
He has since brought on the likes of Harry Kane and Dele Alli and, though still waiting to win a trophy with the club, has turned them into a genuine Premier League force.

Ronald Koeman

A record breaking success at St Mary's, guiding the club to a then record seventh place PL finish in his first season, 2014/15 - and then doing so again 12 months later with a sixth place finish.

Possibly believing he had taken Saints as far as he could have - and no doubt lured by a huge salary - the Dutchman quit in the summer of 2016 to take over at Everton.

In his first season he led



Ronald Koeman

the Toffees - who had twice finished 11th - to a seventh place finish. And a £150m summer spending spree whetted the Everton fans' appetite for the current campaign.

Koeman, though, failed to address the gap left by the sale of Romelu Lukaku and he was sacked on Monday with the Toffees in the PL relegation zone and having won just two of their previous 13 league and cup games.

Claude Puel

Sacked by Saints after taking the club to an eighth place finish and the League Cup final in his only season at St Mary's, the Frenchman was this week named by Leicester City as Craig Shakespeare's successor.

It will be truly fascinating to see how he gets on at the 2016 PL champions. Will he end up having the sort of impact Pochettino has had at Tottenham, or will he go the same way as the likes of Adkins?

It will be interesting to see the reactions of the St Mary's faithful if the answer turns out to be the former ...



Five Hampshire students at England trials

Five Hampshire students, two of them goalkeepers, have progressed to the second phase of the English Schools' Under-18 international trials in Bristol this Sunday.

They are goalkeeping pair Calum Coulter (Farnborough) and Josh Tombs (Peter Symonds), Barton Peveril's Harry Prisk, Sparsholt's Ryan Penny and

Itchen midfielder Ethan Taylor, teenage son of Team Solent boss James Taylor.

Hampshire manager Luke Hampton explained: "If the boys are successful in Bristol, they will represent the South West v South East some time in November."

"From this the South squad will be selected and go to Lilleshall

for a weekend in January where they will take on the North and Midlands for a place in the final England squad."

Itchen talent Jean Luc Ramdin and Barton Peveril's Alex Haynes played for England Under-18 schools last season.

● Southampton Boys will face Bath in the second round of the English Schools' Under-15 Play-

Station Trophy next Saturday morning after a dramatic penalty shoot-out win over Poole & East Dorset.

They won 6-5 on spot kicks and will host Bath at the BTC Ground, Stoneham Lane, on November 4 (11am).

Eastleigh & Winchester are drawn away to Gosport & Fareham.

Sholing tie could impact on Itchen



Itchen. Back (from left): Mitch Byrne, Harry Butler, James Smith, Will Gange, George Beavis, Jacob Steel, Cameron Russell, Jack Wilson, Craig Hunt. Front: Brad Johnson, Ethan Taylor, Lewis Philpot, James Johnson, Jean Luc Ramdin, Jake Willis-Dellimore.

Itchen emerge from the autumn half-term break on top of the Hampshire Colleges League after beating Poole Grammar (4-1), Peter Symonds (3-1) and Barton Peveril (3-2) in their opening three matches.

They've also scored a creditable 3-2 win over Brockenhurst's Academy side in the AOC Cup, Itchen screaming into a three-

goal lead through Jack Wilson, James Johnson and Jack Barnes in the opening 17 minutes.

But next Wednesday's visit to Middle Road by national ESFA Under-18 champions Farnborough promises to test Itchen, who may have to juggle personnel to take into account Sholing's important FA Youth Cup tie against Clevedon Town the following

night (November 2).

Several Itchen students also play for Sholing and are certain to be in the squad for Thursday's youth tie.

Farnborough have so far flattened Poole Grammar and Queen Mary's by 7-1 scorelines, drawn 1-1 with Barton Peveril and lost 1-0 at Peter Symonds in the Peter Munro Cup.

Wednesday's fixtures

Premier League
Andover v Richard Taunton's, Barton Peveril v Queen Mary's, Itchen v Farnborough, Peter Symonds v Poole Grammar.

Championship
Basingstoke v Barton Peveril II, Bournemouth v Peter Symonds II, Brockenhurst v Havant/Southdowns, Farnborough v Portsmouth.

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Shaun's treble helps Fawley jump to second

Shaun Auger struck a hat-trick as Fawley RBL jumped into second place in the Senior Division of the City of Southampton Sunday League.

Nathan Gray (2), Aaron Lucas, Jake Voller and Damian Davies also scored in an 8-3 romp at Boyatt Wood, who replied through Dan Harkett-Burgess' hat-trick.

Andrew Powell (2) and Marcus Bevan scored as leaders Chamberlayne Athletic, who are six points clear, won for the fifth time in six outings - 3-1 at AFC Soton. Bas Rai replied.

Ben Dawkins struck a hat-trick as RS Nomansland won 5-3 at Testlands. Mick McAteer was also among the scorers.

● AFC Forestside hit double figures at AFC Stoneham in Division 4.

Liam Golding (3) and Mark Lavelle (2) led the 10-1 rout, with Ryan Lomax, Matt Lay, Sam Vidler, Sam Dempster and Josh Metcalfe also on target.

Pete Sleep replied for a Stoneham side who trailed 4-1 at the break.

Ollie Burroughs was the top

individual marksman in the division - belting five goals as leaders Athletico Romsey stormed to a 7-3 win at Tokyo.

Wayne Webster and Jamie Bench-Parker also scored, with Tunde Akintolu (2) and Tam Goodrich replying.

Only the one goal at Sholing Monks, though, where the second placed home side defeated Romsey Comrades through a second half strike from Dan Derrick.

● Hedge End Club leapt to the top of Division 5 on goal

difference after a 4-0 home win over AFC Itchen.

Gav Briggs (2) and Jake Bessant were among the scorers.

● Pawel Burdzy grabbed a second half leveller for Hamwic Rovers in a 1-1 Division 6 draw with Park Gate Rangers. Aiden Martin had given the visitors an interval lead.

● Nathan Cornby struck twice as AFC Southbridge defeated Montfort 3-2 in the only Division 7 game played. Craig Holloway also scored with Lee Painter and Andy Seggie replying.

Wembley ace James spot on for Hedge End

FORMER Wembley finalist James Roden helped Hedge End Athletic survive a scare to reach the third round of the Southampton FA Sunday Junior A Cup.

Back in May 2007, Roden played the entire 90 minutes as AFC Totton lost the FA Vase final 3-1 to Truro in one of the first games played at the rebuilt national stadium.

In his latest game, he was part of a Hedge End side that led 2-0 at half-time at Testlands Reserves.

The hosts hit back to force a 3-3 draw, though, before Roden was among the scorers as Hedge End progressed 5-3 on penalties.

Roden, it's fair to say, has taken more pressure penalties than last weekend. After all, he netted for Totton in their 2007 Vase semi final shoot-out win in Billingham.

Roden's colleagues Gav Cross, Andy Bauck, Dan Turner and Nick Turner also converted their spot-kicks, with Ewan McCaffrey, Brendon Beazley and Ben Baddams replying.

Joe Williams, Bauck and Turner had scored for Hedge End in normal time, with Sean Haines (2) and Baddams replying.

● The prolific Aaron Blaxall was on fine form again as Portswood United cantered through to the second round of the DR Ryder Trophy.

He struck a hat-trick as Portswood won 4-1 at AFC Spitfire, with Mitchell Drouet also netting and Damian Slawkowski replying for a Spitfire side who trailed 3-0 at the interval.

Ben Gurman's brace saw Dingle Rovers level at 2-2 at Curbridge - but the hosts eventually won 4-2 after extra time with Lewis Wild, Lee Woolhouse and James Moorman among the scorers.

Matt Smith and Josh Barclay



James Roden celebrates his penalty in Totton's Vase semi final win in Billingham in 2007. Ten years ago, he struck from the spot again - this time for Hedge End Athletic.

scored as King George also needed extra time before progressing with a 2-1 success at Marchwood Rovers. Sam Johnstone replied.

Sam Martin (2), Josh Gore and Dale Perry scored as Mayfield Rovers won 4-1 at Test Valley Spartans. Dan Stobart replied.

Chandlers Ford Athletic are through to the second round of the Charlie Godden Trophy.

They won 3-1 at Forest Home with James Bright, Stuart Gooch and Mark Hibberd on target, Jonny Phillips replied.

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Senior Division								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Chamberlayne	6	5	1	0	23	5	16	
Fawley R.B.L.	5	3	1	1	24	10	10	
Itchen Saints	4	3	0	1	14	5	9	
Boyatt Wood	6	2	1	3	12	24	7	
R.S. Nomansland	4	2	0	2	13	9	6	
Durley	5	1	1	3	8	23	4	
Testlands	3	1	0	2	5	7	3	
A.F.C. Soton	4	1	0	3	7	11	3	
Clock Inn	5	1	0	4	6	18	3	
Junior 1								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Hunters Inn	4	4	0	0	13	5	12	
Bridge Manor	4	3	1	0	17	7	10	
Lyndhurst	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	
King George	4	1	1	2	11	12	4	
Eastpoint	4	1	1	2	4	8	4	
A.F.C. Riverside	4	0	2	2	4	8	2	
Bitterne Ducks	4	0	2	2	7	14	2	
Lordshill	3	0	1	2	6	10	1	
Winsor U.S.C.	1	0	0	1	1	5	0	
Junior 2								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Hedge End Athletic	5	5	0	0	27	4	15	
Portswood	4	3	0	1	14	9	9	
Chartwell Green	3	2	0	1	13	8	6	
A.F.C. Spitfire	3	1	1	1	5	5	4	
Marchwood	5	1	1	3	7	15	4	
Chamberlayne Res	3	1	0	2	7	9	3	
Curbridge	4	1	0	3	5	13	3	
Landguard	5	1	0	4	8	23	3	
Junior 3								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Mottisfont	5	5	0	0	34	11	15	
O.T.'s & Romsey	5	5	0	0	30	10	15	
Mayfield	5	4	0	1	28	7	12	
Portside	6	3	1	2	26	21	10	
Testlands Res	4	1	1	2	12	12	4	
Test Valley	3	1	0	2	18	15	3	
A.F.C. Dorchester	4	1	0	3	15	18	3	
Royale Marine	2	0	0	2	1	8	0	
London Airways	4	0	0	4	7	27	0	
Soton Warriors	4	0	0	4	5	47	0	
Junior 4								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Athletico Romsey	6	5	0	1	29	11	15	
Sholing Monks	7	4	1	2	14	18	13	
Tokyo	6	4	0	2	18	13	12	
Forestside	5	3	0	2	23	9	9	
Stoneham	6	2	1	3	15	18	7	
Forest Home	4	1	0	3	8	10	3	
Hedge End City	4	1	0	3	8	13	3	
Nomansland Res	3	1	0	2	7	17	3	
Romsey Comrades	5	1	0	4	4	17	3	
Junior 5								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Hedge End Club	6	5	0	1	2	4	7	15
Chandlers Ford	6	5	0	1	28	12	15	
A.F.C. Itchen	5	3	0	2	14	17	9	
Dingle Rovers	3	2	0	1	9	4	6	
Chamberlayne A	4	2	0	2	10	10	6	
Netley Spitfire	5	2	0	3	15	19	6	
Mayflower	3	1	0	2	7	11	3	
Whitehart	4	1	0	3	11	18	3	
Sp Compass	5	1	0	4	7	15	3	
Burridge	3	0	0	3	3	15	0	
Junior 6								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Unity 101	6	5	0	1	26	8	15	
Hamwic Rovers	6	3	2	1	16	16	11	
Southern Sports	5	3	1	1	16	7	10	
Otter S.F.C.	4	3	0	1	12	9	9	
Riverside	4	2	0	2	6	6	6	
Park Gate	7	1	2	4	18	25	5	
Nemesis	5	1	1	3	12	16	4	
Linden Tree	4	0	1	3	7	15	1	
Meon Valley	3	0	1	2	5	16	1	
Junior 7								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Southern Res	5	4	0	1	33	12	12	
Southbridge	6	4	0	2	21	24	12	
Empire	4	2	2	0	21	5	8	
Phoenix	4	2	1	1	14	9	7	
Itchen Res	5	2	1	2	15	20	7	
Montfort	5	2	1	2	12	18	7	
Wilton	3	2	0	1	5	3	6	
Mayflower Res	6	1	1	4	11	23	4	
M & T	6	0	0	6	6	24	0	

SAINTS FOUNDATION PAN-DISABILITY LEAGUE



Hants FA winner back for a second season

Saints Foundation's Pan-Disability League has lifted the curtain on its second season.

The 2017 winner of the 'Best Inclusive Project' at Hampshire FA's Grassroots Award is now sponsored by Irwin Mitchell Solicitors and is bigger than before with more teams.

Mike Pink, the SaintsAbility Assistant Project Officer, said: "The league is a fantastic opportunity for people of all abilities to take part.

"This gives the players, and their families, a sense of belonging and supports the players to grow not only as a footballer but also personally."

The league attracts players from all over Hampshire who love football

but feel their disability or additional needs restrict them from competitive football opportunities.

Adult fixtures kicked off earlier this month and last weekend it was the turn of the U12 and U16 age groups. The under-12s included teams from Eastleigh, Chamberlayne Athletic, Bournemouth and Portsmouth.

Justine Spencer, Partner and Head of the Southampton Medical Negligence Team at Irwin Mitchell, was impressed with the attitude of the players and the atmosphere at the fixtures.

"The Southampton office of Irwin Mitchell is always keen to support

great community ventures such as the Pan-Disability League," she said.

"Due to the work we carry out with people who have suffered life changing injuries, we recognise the psychological, social and rehabilitative benefits that playing sport can have.

"We are proud to be supporting the Saints Foundation and hope as many players as possible sign up to take part in the league and showcase their sporting talents.

"Disability need not be a barrier to physical activity."

The next round of fixtures for the adult teams are next Sunday and on November 19 for the younger age groups.



SAINTS FOUNDATION PAN-DISABILITY LEAGUE



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Unsworth in the frame?

Everton's David Unsworth wants the manager's job permanently after being put in temporary charge following Ronald Koeman's sacking.

Here the Sports Pink looks at what he has to offer.

WINNING MENTALITY

It may only be Premier League 2 but Unsworth guided Everton's Under-23s to the title last season. The way he handed himself and what he achieved earned him a lot of credit within the club.

UNDERSTANDING EVERTON

His two spells at the club as a player spanning 11 years and 350 appearances, followed by his involvement in the Toffees' academy, means no-one can doubt his Evertonian credentials. His approach with the Under-23s, both on the pitch and encouraging them to buy into the club's community ethos off it, highlighted his understanding.

AFFINITY WITH PLAYERS

'Rhino', as he is affectionately known, is a popular figure within the club, from chairman Bill Kenwright right down to the academy players. His more personable approach would be a welcome departure for the first-team squad who have struggled to get used to Koeman's stand-offish, distant manner.



David Unsworth

FANS' FAVOURITE

For several weeks a growing section of supporters have been calling for his internal promotion, although the case for his elevation probably had more to do with finding an escape from Koeman rather than seriously considering his credentials. His first one-game spell as interim manager after Roberto Martinez was sacked in May 2016 was well received, mainly because he gave some of the club's academy players a chance, and there will be those clamouring for him to do similarly to inject some life into a lacklustre squad.

HISTORY ON HIS SIDE

The more romantic element will point to the fact that the only post-war managers to win a trophy at Everton were former players. Harry Catterick, Howard Kendall and, the last to achieve the feat in 1995, Joe Royle all wore the blue shirt with distinction. Those supporters of a more emotional disposition will hope Unsworth can follow in their footsteps.

LOCAL CRICKET



From left: Rakitha Perera, David Griffiths, Matt Deadman, Gary Watts and (front) George Metzger pictured with their awards.

Ex-Hants man honoured

Former Hampshire and Kent pace bowler David Griffiths carried off Basingstoke & North Hants' first team Player of the Year award.

He claimed a 39-wicket haul and 255 runs, which helped the Bountymen finish runners-up in Southern Premier League Division 1.

Left-arm spinner Rakitha Perera was named 2nd XI PoY, with batsman/wicketkeeper Laurence Bengt taking the third team, Mikhal Saujani (4th XI), and Gary Watts the fifth team award.

Left-hander Matt Deadman, 17, who made over 400 runs for Basingstoke's promotion winning second team, was

named Young Cricketer of the Year, with Academy-bound George Metzger awarded the Vince Cowan Promising Young Player.

Jake Fincken was the most improved player, while Chris Jolley received the Peter Collop award.

Basingstoke & North Hants awarded a Lifetime Membership of the May's Bounty club to Steve Rolfe, a member for over 25 years, during which time he has been a player, captain, coach and umpire.

He is also heavily involved in the management committee organisation of the popular midweek Guy Jewell T20 knock-out competition.

Hants League awards

Mike Vimpany



The Hampshire Cricket League has announced the names of the 23 clubs and the 48 prize winning cricketers who will be attending next month's two presentation dinner functions at the Southampton Novotel and Basingstoke Apollo.

Portsmouth & Southsea pair Matt Benfield (670 runs) and Keiron Dunstan (31 wickets) landed the main individual prizes and helped their club win the County 1 title in the process.

Sway's Tim Noble was top County 2 batsman, with 743 runs, while Matt Scorey of Compton & Chandler's Ford took 30 wickets to head the bowling charts.

South Wilts' teenager Ben Fisher featured in a 28-wicket three-way tie for the County 3 North bowling prize.

Undoubtedly the best known name in the entire winners list is former Hampshire all-rounder Lawrie Prittupaul who, playing with his mates for Servicemaster at the Portsmouth Rugby Camp every other Saturday, made 546 runs to win the County 3 South award.

Prittupaul, now 38, played 23 times for Hampshire between 2000 and 2004, making a career-best 152 against Derbyshire at Northlands Road.

Another familiar face at the presentation dinners will be Trojans' Simon Williams, who plundered 800 runs for the Stoneham club's third team, so he could spend the season playing alongside his teenage son Zac.

Williams' run tally didn't, though, win Trojans any medals. Dinton II won North West 3.

Twyford's 37-wicket Tom Ducker and teenager Beaulieu all-rounder Matt Pooley, with 572 runs, will be picking up performance awards for the second season running.



Former Hampshire batsman Lawrie Prittupaul.

Hampshire League awards

County 1
Champions: Portsmouth & Southsea
Runners-up: Lymington II
Batting: Matt Benfield (P & S) 670 runs.
Bowling: Keiron Dunstan (P & S) 31 wickets.
County 2
Champions: Parley
Batting: Tim Noble (Sway) 743 runs. Bowling: Matt Scorey (Compton & Chandler's Ford) 30 wickets.
County 3 North
Champions: Odiham & Greywell

Batting: Jake Rowell (Hungerford) 842 runs. Bowling: Ben Fisher (South Wilts III) 28, Shaun Blanks (Liss) 28, Inayat Khan (RAM) 28 wickets.
County 3 South
Champions: Portsmouth II
Batting: Mike Hallett (Hayling Island) 889 runs. Bowling: Ryan Attree (Mudford) 34 wickets.
County 4 North
Champions: IBM Hursley
Batting: Stuart Taylor (Wherwell) 840. Bowling (shared): Stuart Taylor and Nick Tomlin (Overtown) 29 wickets.
County 4 South
Champions: Emsworth

Batting: Lawrie Prittupaul (Servicemaster) 546. Bowling: Dawn Ambi (Kerala) 40 wickets.

County 4 West

Champions: Langley Manor
Batting: Luke Hancock (Verwood) 609. Bowling: John Driscoll (Verwood) 35 wickets.

Regional 1 North East

Champions: Silchester
Batting: Iain Dadd (Donnington) 602. Bowling: Marawat Hussain (Bishops Waltham II) 29 wickets.

Regional 1 North West

Champions: Twyford
Batting: Adam Burrows (Sporting Wessex) 693. Bowling (shared): James Dovey (Whiteparish) 37, Tom Ducker (Twyford) 37 wickets.

Regional 1 South East

Champions: Ryde Cavaliers
Batting: Tommy Barton (Ryde Cavaliers) 759 runs. Bowling: Andy Philpott (Emsworth) 37 wickets.

Regional 1 South West

Champions: Sway II
Batting: Jason Cooper (Godshill) 614. Bowling: Dave Agha (Lyndhurst & Ashurst) 35 wickets.

Regional 2 South East

Champions: Portsmouth & Southsea
Batting: Sasi Mahesh (Challengers) 654. Bowling: Sean Swift (Bedhampton II) 35 wickets.

Regional Division 2 North East

Champions: Oakley II
Batting: Martin Rodger (Hartley Wintney) 400. Bowling: Chris Grannell (Crown Taverners) 25 wickets.

Regional Division 2 North West

Champions: Wellow & Plattford
Batting: Harry Jenkins (Farley) 362. Bowling: Roy Cavill (Over Wallop) 32 wickets.

Regional 2 South West

Champions: Hyde
Batting: Matt Pooley (Beaulieu) 572 runs. Bowling: Brad Varley (Beaulieu) 31 wickets.

Regional Division 3 North East

Champions: Aldershot
Iain Robbins (IBM Hursley) 243. Bowling: Tariq Butt (Aldershot) 20 wickets.

Regional Division 3 North West

Champions: Dinton II
Batting: Simon Williams (Trojans III) 800 runs. Bowling: Matt Knight (Thuxton) 29 wickets.

Regional Division 3 South East

Champions: Waterloo II
Batting: Fred Selman (Gosport Borough III) 495. Bowling: Jim Cooper (Rowner) 32 wickets.

Regional 3 South West

Champions: Lyndhurst & Ashurst II
Batting: Tim Rogers (Langley Manor IV) 633 runs. Bowling: Marc Pilton (Cadnam) 30 wickets.

Women's Division 1

Champions: Aldershot
Batting: Kerry Harnett (Odiham & Greywell) 608. Bowling: Lucy Spooner (Aldershot) 17 wickets.

Women's Division 2

Champions: Alton
Batting/bowling: Gamma Porter (Alton) 216 runs and 13 wickets.

Women's Division 3

Champions: Andover
Batting: Emma Church (Railway Triangle) 210. Bowling: Anya Ahl (Andover) and Sarah Renda (Railway Triangle) 13 wickets.

HANTS CRICKET



'A very good club bowler and an absolute gent'

Andy Murtagh

Former Hampshire player Andy Murtagh pays his own tribute to the county's former chief executive Tony Baker, who passed away earlier this month.

Back in the days, Southampton University played in the Southern League, mixing it with the likes of Deanery, Waterloo, Basingstoke and Old Tauntonians.

We had good sides in the late '60s and early '70s and we must have held our own because we were always top of the league at the end of term.

But of course, the end of term was not the end of the cricket season and when the final league table was published, other sides had of course played their outstanding fixtures, caught us up and quite a few no doubt passed us.

It was against Old Tauntonians, I believe, that I made my debut for the university in the Southern League.

As I took guard, the bowler and captain sidled up to me and asked what subject I was reading.

"English, I replied. "Good," he said, "It will be a pleasure to speak to someone in your side who can string more than two words together." But that's only one word, I thought to myself, as I asked for middle-and-leg.

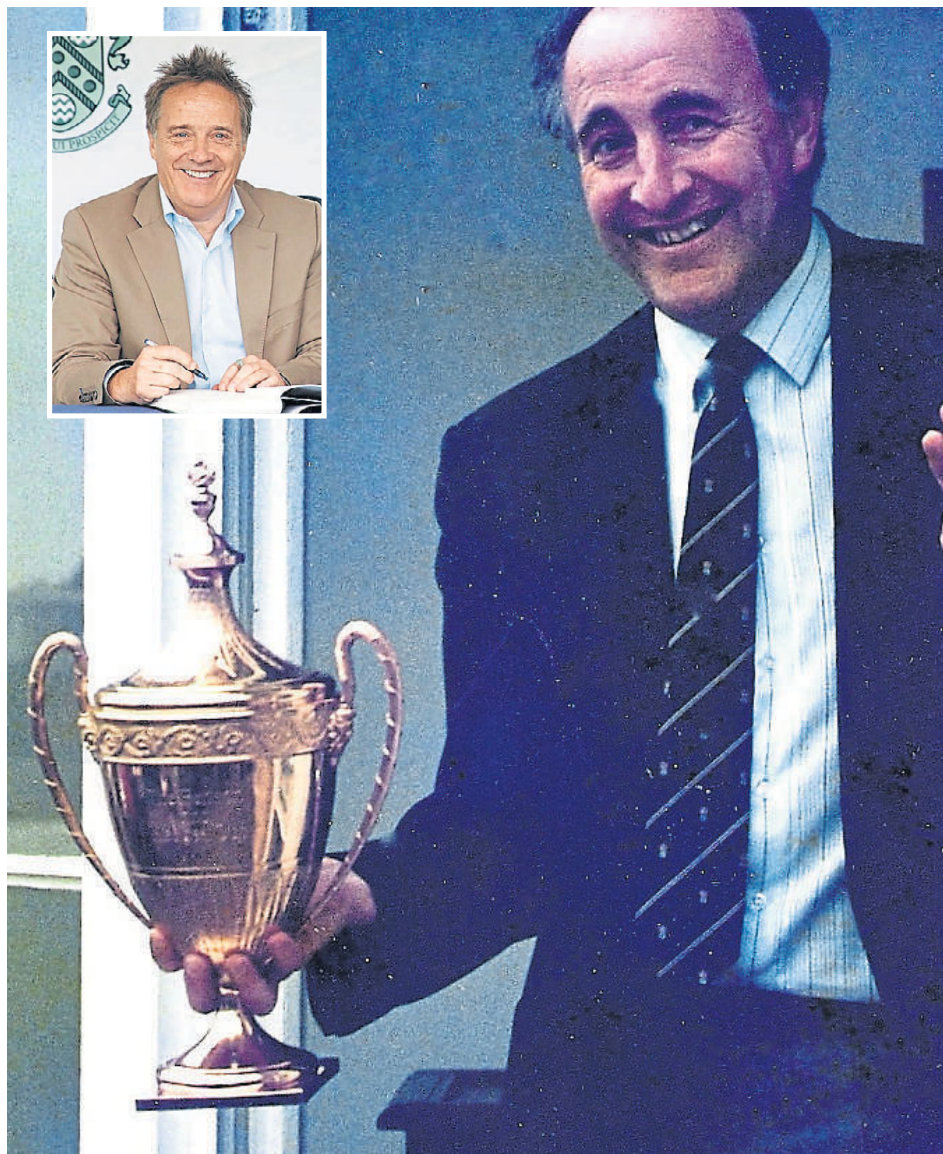
This chap had a longish run and in he bounded, dark hair flapping with sweat, to deliver balls that were invitingly pitched up, just outside off stump.

I decided to unfurl my favourite shot – the cover drive – and leant in to stroke it effortlessly to the boundary. But it bounced a bit more than I expected and moved away fractionally as it pitched. I nicked it and the wicket-keeper did the rest.

The bowler/captain came over at tea in the pavilion at Montefiore, the university ground, to introduce himself as Tony Baker.

He sat down, shared his sandwiches and engaged me in conversation of more than two words and thus was born a long and cheerful friendship that endured right up until his recent death.

He was a very good club bowler; I am immediately forced to admit, and he got me out more times than I care to remember.



Tony Baker with the Benson & Hedges Cup in 1988. Inset - Andy Murtagh.

He was indefatigable, bowling for hour after hour, at a lively pace, and he never lost the ability to move the ball away from the right-hander.

He was also an absolute gent, both on the field and off, grinning if you played and missed and nodding his head in appreciation if you hit him for four.

He enjoyed the banter and the gossip in the bar afterwards and

if he was ever missing for our annual skirmishes – which was rare – I always thought that the contest was a little diminished.

I went on the play for Hampshire and he went on to take care of Hampshire – well, the financial side of things, anyway – and we maintained contact, which continued down the years at ex-players' reunions.

It was sad to see him wheelchair-

bound and physically diminished as Parkinson's took hold, but he remained cheerful, upbeat and sociable, so much so that I never felt constrained to moderate the tone of our usual teasing exchanges.

He's now taken his sweater and gone for a deserved long rest at third man and the game is all the poorer for that.

Well bowled, Tony!

Aussies aim to capitalise on England inexperience

Australia captain Steve Smith believes his team can capitalise on England's inexperienced batting line-up in the forthcoming Ashes.

England's quest to retain the urn begins in Brisbane next month when Joe Root's men will bid to become the first since the side of 2010-11 to win an Ashes series on Australian soil.

Only four of those who will be on the plane – Alastair Cook, James Anderson, Stuart Broad and Steven Finn – were part of that victorious unit, and a significant portion of this squad has limited experience of Test match cricket.

Opener Mark Stoneman has played in just three Tests, while Hampshire's James Vince and Dawid Malan, who will likely bat at three and five, have a combined 19 innings in international red-ball cricket.

Smith said this week: "Dawid Malan and other guys have come in and played, I'm not entirely sure what order they will go with. Mark Stoneman will



Hampshire's James Vince

probably be at the top.

"They do have inexperienced players coming to Australia – hopefully they won't be equipped for the fast and bouncy tracks compared to England and we can exploit them a little bit."

England were unable to solve their issues at two, three and five over the summer series with South Africa and West Indies, which placed extra emphasis on Cook, Root and those batting lower down the order.

The tandem of Anderson and Broad remains pivotal from a bowling perspective too, and Smith wants to see plenty of that pair, and little of Cook and Root, across the five-match series.

"With regards to their batting, Alastair Cook and Joe Root are their two big players that we need to keep quiet," Smith added.

"James Anderson and Stuart Broad are experienced – they have been here a few times so they know what to expect. We need to get those guys bowling a lot of overs – if we do that, hopefully we'll have some success."

Contact the Sports Pink on 02380 424515

HALLOWEEN EASTLEIGH PARKRUN, OCT 28, 2017



HALLOWEEN EASTLEIGH PARKRUN, OCT 28, 2017



Another UEFA fine!

Celtic have been hit with a 12th UEFA fine in the space of six years with the total bill up to about £170,000.

Here, the Sports Pink lists the Hoops' recent run-ins with UEFA's disciplinary body.

December 2011

Celtic are fined £12,700 after fans sing pro-IRA chants during a Europa League clash with Rennes in Glasgow.

March 2012

A £21,000 penalty is issued after supporters set off fireworks and unveil an insulting banner aimed at UEFA during their Europa League fixture with Udinese in Italy.

September 2012

The use of fireworks at Celtic Park during a Champions League qualifier with Cliftonville costs them another £4,200.

December 2013

The club are fined around £42,000 after fans unveil "illicit banners" featuring IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands before a Champions League match with AC Milan.

September 2014

UEFA fines Celtic £15,900 after fans display a Palestinian flag during a Champions League qualifier against KR Reykjavik.

February 2015

The club are fined £7,300 after Celtic fans clash with rival supporters and Croatian police during a Europa League group stage match against Dinamo Zagreb. The fine also punishes Celtic for the supporters' use of fireworks.

March 2015

Flares set off by Celtic fans during a Europa League clash with Inter Milan at the San Siro incur a £3,600 sanction.

February 2016

A £10,000 fine is issued for using fireworks following a Europa League tie with Fenerbahce in Istanbul, although a portion of the fine related to the "improper conduct" of the team.

August 2016

Fans again flew Palestinian flags in the Champions League qualifier against Israeli side Hapoel Be'er Sheva, prompting UEFA to fine them £8,616 for the use of "illicit banners".

February 2017

More fireworks and crowd disturbances during a Champions League match against Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium are punished with a £16,050 fine.

July 2017

Celtic are fined £20,000 for crowd-related offences during a Champions League home qualifier against Linfield, including blocked stairways and another "illicit banner" featuring a paramilitary-style figure.

October 2017

Celtic are fined £8,900 after 21-year-old supporter John Hatton raced on to the Parkhead pitch and aimed a kick at Paris St Germain striker Kylian Mbappe in the Champions League match in September.

PINK

Stars of England under-17s' World Cup run



Rhian Brewster

England have reached the final of the Under-17 World Cup, Steve Cooper's side beating Brazil 3-1 in the last four on Wednesday to set up this weekend's showdown with Spain in Kolkata.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of the players who have been involved in this latest impressive tournament showing from an England youth outfit.

RHIAN BREWSTER

Age: 17, club: Liverpool, forward

Brewster has made a major impact in India, scoring seven times including hat-tricks in both the Brazil match and the quarter-final against the United States. He moved to Liverpool after being with Chelsea between the ages of seven and 14. Brewster is yet to make a first-team appearance but was an unused substitute for the Reds' Premier League clash with Crystal Palace in April.

PHIL FODEN

Age: 17, club: Manchester City, midfielder

Foden, another to really catch the eye with his performance in the semi-final and a scorer in the group stage, has been with City since under-nine level. He made the bench for last season's home Champions League match against Celtic without getting on, then earned considerable praise from Pep Guardiola following his display in a friendly against Manchester United in Houston over the summer, with the City boss saying: "He's a gift for us."

GEORGE McEACHRAN

Age: 17, club: Chelsea, midfielder

McEachran has been at Chelsea since the start of his under-eight year and helped them win the FA Youth Cup last season. He is the younger brother of Josh McEachran, who made 11 Premier League appearances for the Blues before joining his current side Brentford.

STEVEN SESSEGNON

Age: 17, club: Fulham, defender/midfielder

Another player with a well-known sibling in the game, Sessegnon is the twin brother of Fulham team-mate Ryan Sessegnon, the full-back who has already made over 30 appearances for the club and is an England Under-19 international. Steven made his Cottagers first-team debut in August, playing the full 90 minutes of a Carabao Cup victory against Wycombe.

JADON SANCHO

Age: 17, club: Borussia Dortmund, winger

Sancho scored three times in the group stage of this tournament but was not involved thereafter having been called back by Dortmund, who he joined from Manchester City on transfer deadline day in August for £8million. Wearing the number seven shirt at the German side that was previously in the possession of Ousmane Dembele, he made his Bundesliga debut last weekend, coming on as a late substitute in a 2-2 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Lovren, Dia and other afternoons to forget

Dejan Lovren was substituted in the first half at Wembley as Liverpool's defence struggled to cope with Tottenham in the Premier League.

The former Saints defender suffered the embarrassment of being taken off after just 31 minutes - though Reds boss Jurgen Klopp said he could easily have hauled off others.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at other players whose afternoons did not go to plan.

Haim Megrelashvili

Defender Megrelashvili made several errors and was replaced six minutes into Vitesse's Eredivisie game against FC Twente in 2008. Two weeks later, against AZ Alkmaar, he suffered the same fate - but at least he lasted 10 minutes longer. The Israeli's contract was terminated the following year.

Paul Rachubka

In 2011, Leeds goalkeeper Rachubka was replaced by rookie Alex Cairns at half-time after three errors enabled Blackpool to take a 3-0 lead in a Championship game against Elland Road. The visitors went on to win 5-0.

Nemanja Matic

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho was critical of Nemanja Matic's performance in a Champions League defeat by Porto in 2015. Four days later in a televised Premier League match against Saints, the Serbian was brought on at half-time - only to be substituted 28 minutes later. Saints ran out 3-1 winners at Stamford Bridge.



Dejan Lovren, above, during his short spell on the pitch at Wembley. Right - Ali Dia.

Emmanuel Eboue

Eboue replaced the injured Samir Nasri in the 32nd minute of Arsenal's Premier League home game against Wigan in 2008 - however, the Ivorian conceded possession early on, lost confidence and his substitution in the closing stages was greeted with cheers by the Gunners fans.

Ali Dia

Saints fans - stop us if you've heard this one before! Still the most famous - or infamous - case of an early exit in Premier League history. Dia came on as a substitute after 32 minutes of a Premier League match against Leeds in 1996 but the Senegalese striker was substituted himself with five minutes remaining. Dell legend Matt Le Tissier, the man Dia replaced, said: "He ran around the pitch like Bambi on ice, it was very embarrassing to watch."



PINK

5 things you can't miss in the forthcoming racing week

BIG GUNS STATESIDE

The Breeders' Cup might not quite have the pull for the European trainers it once did, given its close proximity to Champions Day at Ascot, but for those who love their international racing it does not get much better. Staged at Del Mar this season, Aidan O'Brien will be well represented by the likes of Highland Reel and dual 2000 Guineas hero Churchill. However, the highlight is likely to be the rematch between Marsha and Lady Aurelia after the two fillies served up a treat in the Nunthorpe at York.

WETHERBY'S DAY IN THE SUN

Wetherby hosts the first really big race of the new jumps season in the shape of the

bet365 Charlie Hall Chase on Saturday, a race that seems to be taking on a renewed prominence. Cue Card, Coneygree, Bristol De Mai and Definitely Red are just some of those in the mix. The supporting card is not bad, either.

CLASS IN SHOW AT DOWN ROYAL

Also on Saturday, the top Irish-based chasers have their chance to shine in the JNWine.com Champion Chase at Down Royal on Saturday. There is no doubt that this year the star attraction is set to be Jessica Harrington's Our Duke, who ran away with the Irish Grand National as a novice last season.

CURTAIN COMES DOWN

AT NEWMARKET - AND UP AT ASCOT

It is always a sign that winter is not far away when Newmarket stages its final two days racing of the season. The Listed Bosra Sham Stakes on Friday and the EBF Montrose Fillies' Stakes on Saturday are the highlights, but of more interest for the future are likely to be a host of maiden races where the odd future star might be lurking. In contrast, it's a new beginning for Ascot, with the first jumps meeting of the new campaign.

CORK'S GRAND NATIONAL

There does seem to be one every week at some outpost or other, but Cork's Grand National is at least better established than most. Last year's winner Raz De Maree was

winning the race for a second time and will no doubt be back as a 12-year-old looking to enter the history books. There can be the odd Aintree clue, too, as Vics Canvas was successful in 2014 before going on to be placed in the real thing in 2016.

FIXTURES (Flat in capitals)

Monday: Ayr, LEICESTER, REDCAR
Tuesday: Bangor, CATTERICK, Chepstow, WOLVERHAMPTON
Wednesday: Fakenham, KEMPTON, NOTTINGHAM, Taunton
Thursday: CHELMSFORD, LINGFIELD, Sedgefield, Stratford
Friday: NEWCASTLE, NEWMARKET, Uttroeter, Wetherby
Saturday: Ascot (ITV4), Ayr, NEWCASTLE, NEWMARKET, Wetherby (ITV4)
Sunday: Carlisle, Huntingdon

Liberated Lewis is poised for glory

Lewis Hamilton edged ever closer to winning a fourth Formula One World Championship after he stormed to victory at the United States Grand Prix.

Hamilton will wrap up the title in Mexico on Sunday if he finishes fifth or higher after moving 66 points clear of Sebastian Vettel with just 75 points remaining.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at five things we learned from the Circuit of the Americas.

Liberated Hamilton poised for glory

Smoke billowed around the Mercedes hospitality tent as Hamilton chomped on a Cuban cigar to celebrate a ninth victory of the season - one which all-but ensured he will be crowned champion in Mexico. Hamilton is a new man this season; relaxed in his own skin and liberated by Nico Rosberg's sudden departure from Mercedes. He was forthcoming on his past troubles at Mercedes, speaking at length and with an eloquence that you might not always associate with the sometime temperamental British driver. Hamilton is at one with himself off the track, and his performances on it - particularly since the summer break - have been spellbinding. It is hardly a surprise to hear Toto Wolff say it is the best Hamilton he has seen. As the Englishman closes in on a fourth title we should cherish his greatness for all its worth. He will not be around forever, and the sport will miss him when he is gone.

Verstappen and Co hit out after penalty

Aside from Hamilton, the other



Lewis Hamilton celebrates after winning the US GP.

major talking point in Austin revolved around Max Verstappen. The Dutchman, who started 16th on the grid, sensationally passed Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen on the final lap for third, but his move was adjudged to have been illegal after he ran off the track and he was stripped of his podium finish. His father Jos Verstappen, a veteran of more than 100 GPs, took aim at the FIA - the sport's governing body - with a series of potentially libellous tweets, while

Red Bull's Max himself described one of the stewards' Garry Connelly, who also penalised Verstappen, in Mexico last year as an "idiot".

Alonso: Pre-race razzmatazz a poor man's Indy 500

Michael Buffer swapped the boxing ring for the start-finish straight as F1's American owners Liberty Media spiced up

the pre-race show in their first grand prix on home soil. Buffer announced each driver on to the grid alongside fabricated smoke and the pom-poms of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders. Hamilton and Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo revelled in the funky-up format, but it was not to everyone's taste. McLaren's Fernando Alonso, who competed in the Indianapolis 500 earlier this year, said: "The only thing that was not similar to the Indy 500 was the driver presentation, which was a bad copy."

Big moaner

Frenchman Romain Grosjean, who has earned a rather unwanted reputation as the sport's biggest moaner following a series of radio rants, was told to shut up by his own team during Sunday's race. Grosjean wanted to stop after suffering a problem with his front-left tyre. "I think we should retire the car," Grosjean said. "There is no point in going to the end. What are we doing, guys? Seriously." But his American team Haas did not express any sympathy. "Shut up," they replied. Grosjean bit back: "You're not paying your life here. The tyre is completely gone." Grosjean did make it to the end, crossing the line in 14th.

Ocon's new record

Esteban Ocon continued his fine start to life in F1 by becoming the first driver in the sport's history to finish in 26 consecutive GPs. Ocon, just 13 points adrift of his more experienced Force India team-mate Sergio Perez, was sixth to go one better than Englishman Max Chilton's streak of 25 successive finishes from debut.

BOOK REVIEW

Ali: A Life
By Jonathan Eig

Sportsbookofthemoth.com price: £16.79, saving £8.21 on rrp

You could fill a library with Muhammad Ali biographies, photographic collections, tittle-tattle, statistical tomes and hastily-prepared cut-and-paste 'appreciations'.

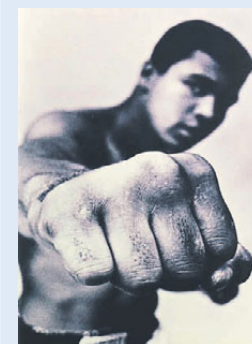
This may prompt the would-be reader of *Ali: A Life* to ask, 'is it worth spending £16.79 on yet another book which focuses on the great man's life?'

The answer is a resounding 'yes'.

Jonathan Eig, who conducted more than 500 interviews prior to, and following Ali's death during the course of his research, has produced an enormous (640 pages), exceptionally well-researched piece of work that doesn't shirk from revealing Ali's darker side.

Most of us know the basics of Ali's remarkable life: from Olympic gold medalist to the vastly under-rated 'Louisville Lip' and onto the world heavyweight championship.

His refusal to serve in Vietnam resulted in him losing his boxing licence, but he would return to



recapture the world crown before suffering from the early onset of brain damage.

By 1981, aged 39, as he prepared for his final fight, Ali was already in serious decline, his speed - of foot and thought - had deserted him.

Eig is brilliant at peppering his text with anecdotes which reveal Ali's innate sense of fun.

Despite being the world's most famous man, he remained approachable and always prepared to engage in pranks capable of yielding laughter.

But the author also reveals the extent of Ali's preparedness to cheat on his wives, particularly Belinda, to whom he was married for nine years from 1967.

The degree to which Ali's brain damage affected both his boxing and his life outside the ring is also treated to a comprehensive statistical examination which measures his reflexes and speed, considered essential characteristics of a solid boxing defence, and the extent to which they both slowed dramatically.

As early as 1970, when he was just 28, Ali's brain was already deteriorating.

Until now, it was widely held that Thomas Hauser had written the definitive Ali biography, but Jonathan Eig's *Ali: A Life* is equally impressive.

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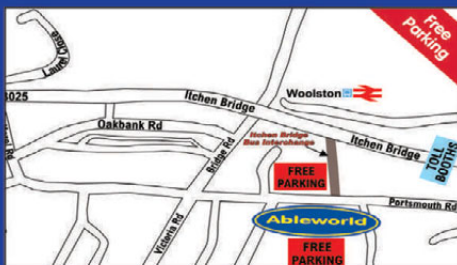
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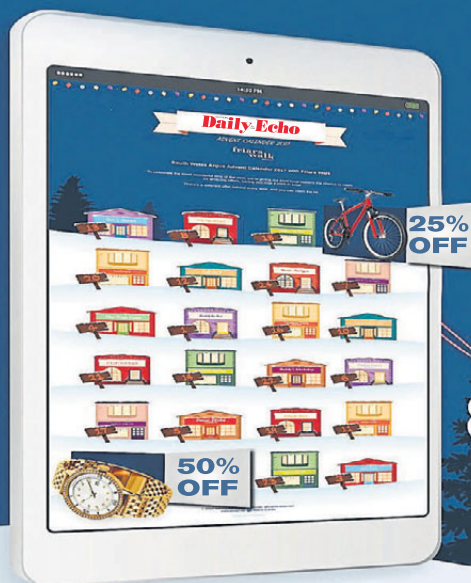
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SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Premier League

AFC Bournemouth	L	Chelsea	L
HT 1-0			
Arsenal	2	Swansea	1
Kolashin 51		Claude 22	
Ramsay 58			
HT 0-2			
Crystal P.	2	West Ham	2
Milovicovic 50 pen		Hernandez 31	
Zaha 90		Ayew 43	
HT 0-2			
Liverpool	3	Huddersfield	0
Skirrow 50			
Firmino 58			
Wijnaldum 75			
HT 0-0			
Man Utd	1	Tottenham Hotspur	0
Marshall 81			
HT 0-0			
Watford	0	Stoke	0
HT 0-1			
W.B.A.	2	Man City	3
Rodriguez 13		Sane 10	
Phillips 90		Fernando 15	
HT 1-2		Stirling 64	

Northampton	1	Blackpool	0
Hoskins 21			
HT 1-0			
Oldham	2	Scunthorpe	0
Clarke 45		Hopper 5	
Davies 81		Morris 10	
HT 1-2		Holmes 81	
Peterborough	1	Shrewsbury	0
Maddison 14			
HT 1-0			
Plymouth	1	Rochdale	1
Grant 1		Donna 33	
HT 1-1		Att 8,805	
POMPEY	0	Bradford	1
HT 0-0		Kilgallon 80	
Rotherham	1	Gillingham	3
Moore 56		Att 18,067	
HT 0-1			
Walsall	0	Southend	1
HT 0-1			
Wigan	0	Blackburn	0
HT 0-0			

Ladbrokes Scottish Prem

Aberdeen	2	Ross County	1
Christie 12		Gardyne 8	
McLean 52 pen			
HT 1-1			
Celtic	1	Kilmarnock	1
Griffiths 43		Jones 60	
HT 1-0			
Dundee	1	Hamilton	3
Leitch-Smith 67 pen		Skondras 39, Templeton 64	
HT 0-1		Rojano 86	
Hearts	1	Rangers	3
Lafferty 24		Miller 43,65, Windass 72	
HT 1-1		Att 32,852	
Motherwell	0	Hibernian	1
HT 0-1		Boyle 27	
Partick	1	St Johnstone	0
Storey 14		Att 6,043	
HT 1-0			

Vanarama National League

Barrow	3	Aldershot	1
Yusuf 5,39,65		McDonnell 46	
HT 0-0			
Boreham W	2	Bromley	2
Holman 25		Rees 32	
Turley 40		Wanadio 38	
HT 2-2		Att 1,128	
Gateshead	0	Dover	0
HT 0-0			
Macclesfield	1	Eastleigh	2
Whitehead 90		Yeates 45,50	
HT 1-1		Att 1,352	
Maldenhead Utd	1	Dagenham	1
Clema 39		Cheek 55	
HT 1-0		Att 1,384	
Midstone Utd	1	Chester FC	0
Fairley 10			
HT 0-0			
Southall Moors	0	AFC Fylde	4
HT 0-2		Smith 44	
Sutton Utd	0	Ebbw Vale	0
HT 0-0		Att 668	
Torquay	0	Hartlepool	2
HT 0-0		Att 2,197	
Tranmere	2	FC Halifax	2
Norwood 5,14		Brown 51	
Le Cole 52		Batty 65	
HT 0-0		Att 85 pen	
Woking	2	Guiseley	3
Appau 14		Lubard 34,49	
Charles-Cook 65		Fondoo-Taloni 74	
HT 1-1		Att 1,763	
Wrexham	2	Leyton O	2
Holroyd 1,71		Bonne 22	
HT 1-1		Ellis 85	

Man City	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Man Utd	10	4	0	1	21	3	28
Tottenham	10	5	0	1	5	0	15
Arsenal	10	5	0	1	13	4	15
Chelsea	9	2	1	2	8	6	3
Liverpool	10	3	2	2	9	1	11
Watford	10	1	2	2	11	3	7
Newcastle	9	3	1	1	7	4	10
Burnley	9	1	2	1	2	2	6
SAINTS	9	2	2	2	6	7	11
Huddersfield	10	2	2	1	4	6	11
Brighton	9	2	1	1	5	4	11
Stoke	10	2	1	2	1	6	9
W.B.A.	10	1	3	1	1	1	11
Leicester	9	1	1	2	6	6	9
West Ham	10	2	1	2	5	6	9
Swansea	10	1	1	4	4	9	3
Everton	9	2	0	3	5	10	0
Bournemouth	9	1	1	2	3	5	10
Crystal P	10	1	1	3	4	9	0

Shrewsbury	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wigan	16	7	1	0	14	3	28
Bradford	16	4	1	3	9	8	18
Carlton	15	5	1	1	10	6	16
Scunthorpe	16	3	3	2	8	6	16
Rotherham	16	6	0	2	13	6	16
Blackburn	14	4	1	2	12	6	16
Peterborough	15	5	0	3	12	12	16
Fleetwood	15	4	2	2	16	13	16
Oxford Utd	16	3	4	1	17	9	16
Southend	16	4	0	10	6	16	16
Blackpool	15	5	1	1	10	6	16
Bristol R	16	5	0	3	15	12	16
POIMPEY	16	4	1	3	13	6	16
Walsall	16	2	5	1	11	10	16
M K Dons	16	2	4	2	11	13	16
Doncaster	16	2	3	3	10	11	16
Oldham	16	3	0	5	12	16	16
Rochdale	16	3	2	9	8	0	16
Wimbledon	16	2	2	4	6	8	16
Northampton	16	3	0	5	6	14	16
Gillingham	16	1	3	4	7	10	16
Bury	16	3	1	4	9	8	16
Plymouth	16	1	2	5	6	15	16

SkyBet League Two

Accrington	4	Barnet	1
McConville 35		Campbell-Ryce 54	
HT 0-0			
Chesterfield	2	Carlisle	2
Dennis 84		Granger 55	
HT 1-0		Bennett 73	
Colchester	3	Crewe	1
Manor 39,71		Bowery 22	
HT 1-1			
Forest Grn	2	Morecambe	0
Marsh-Brown 30			
Laird 64			
HT 1-0			
Grimsby	0	Cambridge	0
HT 0-0			
Lincoln City	0	Crawley	1
HT 0-0			
Luton	0	Coventry	3
HT 0-0			
Mansfield	1	Exeter	1
Hemmings 18		Holmes 66	
HT 1-0		Att 3,698	
Notts Cnty	3	Newport County	0
Grant 36,55			
Ameobi 52			
HT 1-0			
Port Vale	0	Swindon	3
HT 1-0			

Ladbrokes Scottish Ch'ship

Dumbarton	0	Dundee Utd	2
HT 0-2		Stanton 2,15	
Inverness CT	1	Dunfermline	0
HT 1-0		Att 968	
Livingston	3	Brechin	2
McMillan 3		McKee 85	
Halkett 60		Sindair 8	
Mackin 69		Mottley-Henry 57	
HT 1-1		Att 926	
Queen St	4	Falkirk	2
Dobbs 16		McGhee 89	
Dykes 19			
Brownlie 75, Lyle 90			
HT 2-0			
St Mirren	2	Morton	2
McShane 66 pen		Murdoch 68	
Reilly 72		Harkins 79 pen	
HT 0-0		Att 5,496	

Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 1

Airdrieonians	2	Albion R	2
St Mirren	1	Ayr Utd	2
Livingston	1	Stranraer	0
Dunfermline	1	Arbroath	3
Dundee Utd	1	East Fife	3
Queen St	1	East Fife	3
Morton	1	Dunfermline	1
Inverness	1	East Fife	3
Dunfermline	1	East Fife	3
Falkirk	1	East Fife	3
Brechin	1	East Fife	3

Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 2

Berwick	1	Cowdenbth	0
McKenna 80 pen			
HT 0-0			
Elgin	2	Elgin	4
Gordon 6		McHardy 73	
Osadlor 81		Att 556	
HT 1-1			
Montrose	1	Edinburgh City	0
Johnston 60			
HT 0-0			
Peterhead	1	Annan Athletic	0
McAllister 45			
HT 1-0			
Stirling A	1	Stenhousemuir	2
D Smith 73		McGuffee 38	
HT 0-1		Longworth 48	

Vanarama National Lge Sth

Braintree Town	1	Havant and W	3
Barrington 66		Prior 48 pen,53 pen,79 pen	
HT 0-0			
Chippenhams	3	Chelmsford	2
Frail 21		Dickson 88	
Twine 42			
Richards 90			
HT 0-0			
Dartford	2	St Albans	1
Bradbrook 6		Walker 40	
Bender 60 og			
HT 1-1			
East Thurrock	0	H Hempstead	1
HT 0-1			
Hampton & Richmond	3	Bath City	1
Napa 44		Morgan 16	
Kretschmar 80			
Crawford 90			
HT 1-1			
Hungerford Town	0	Eastbourne Borough	1
HT 0-0			
Oxford C	1	Concord Rgs	1
Sinclair 60		Nasha 86	
HT 0-0			
Poole Town	0	Gloucester	3
HT 0-0			
Truro City	1	Bognor Regis Town	1
Gerring 16		Sekajia 36	
HT 1-1			
Welling U	1	Wealdstone	2
Parkinson 65		Sellers 39	
HT 0-1			
Weston-S-Mare	1	Whitehawk	0
HT 0-1			

SkyBet Championship

Burton Albion	1	Ipswich	2
Turner 57		Waghorn 66	
HT 0-0		Celina 89	
Cardiff	0	Millwall	0
HT 0-0		Att 18,496	
Fulham	1	Bolton	1
Carney 90		Ameobi 28	
HT 0-1		Att 18,792	
Hull	L	Nottm For	L
HT 0-1			
Norwich	1	Derby City	2
Klose 71		Nugent 45	
HT 0-1		Winnall 63	
Preston North End	L	Brentford	L
Maguire 41		Yennaris 25	
Barkhuizen 67		Savarys 56	
HT 1-1		Watkins 69	
Q.P.R.	2	Wolves	1
Washington 41		Leo Bonatti 43	
Smith 81		Att 16,004	
HT 1-1			
Reading	0	Middlesbrough	2
HT 0-1		Leadbitter 12 pen	
Sheff Wed	1	Barnsley	1
Reach 34		Barnes 67	
HT 1-0		Att 27,097	
Sunderland	1	Bristol C	2
Grabban 45		Reid 28	
HT 1-1		Djoric 73	

SkyBet League One

Bristol R	2	M K Dons	0
Nichols 65			
Gaffney 73			
HT 0-0			
Bury	0	Doncaster	1
HT 0-0			
Charlton	1	AFC Wimbledon	0
Holmes 78			
HT 0-0			
Fleetwood Town	2	Oxford Utd	0
Grant 88, Huiwala 90			
HT 0-0			

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
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NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

FA Trophy – first round qualifying:

Aylesbury 0 Harlow Town 0
Barking 0 Beaconsfield Town 2
Biggleswade Town 0 Wingate & Finchley 5
Bishops Cleeve 0 Harwell Town 0
Bowers & Pitsea 1 Egham Town 1
Brentwood 0 Bedford 0
Bury 1 Chalfont St Peter 1
Cambridge City 0 Alvechurch 2
Dorchester 2 Basingstoke Town 1
Dunstable Town 1 Lewes 4
Gosport Borough 1 Bristol Manor Farm 0
Hastings Utd 3 Ashford Town (Middle) 4
Hayes & Yeading Utd 0 Chesham Utd 3
Hendon 3 Kings Langley 1
Hereford 4 Weymouth 1
Hitchin Town 5 Cheshunt 0
Kidlington 1 Slough Town 4
Kings Lynn 0 Midlehall 1
Larkhall Athletic 1 Farnborough 3
Leek Town 3 Kettering 2
Needham Market 1 Ayrleigh Town 3
Paulton Rovers 2 Cirencester Town 2
Redditch Utd 0 Coalville Town 1
Roydon Town 2 Enfield Town 0
Sharnford Rovers 2 Farnham Town 0
St Neots 3 Corby 2
Stafford Rangers 6 St Ives 0
Stratford Town 2 Bedworth Utd 1
Windon Supermarine 0 Hartley Wintney 3
Taurton Town 2 Mertonhly Town 1
Tottenham 1 Wokingham 1
Twerton Town 2 Banbury Utd 2
Yate Town 0 Moneyfields 1
SYDENHAMS BOCCERUS LEAGUE
Premier Division:
AFC Poshford 0 Westchester 0
Aldershot 0 Blackfield & Langley 0
Armsbury 4 Bashley 3
Andover Town 2 Bournemouth Poppies 1
Bemerton Hn 1 Baffins Mrn 0
Ewes Sports 2 Harnable Club 0
Hornadeale 1 Lymington Town 0
Portland Utd 1 Newport IOW 0
Shaftesbury 3 Petersfield 0
Sholing 0 Fareham 0
Team Solent 5 Hamworthy 1
Division One:
AFC Newton 0 Andover NS 2
Folland Sports 2 Fawley 5
Hythe & Dibden 6 Downton 4
Laverstock & Ford 0 East Cowes Vics 4
Ringwood 1 Romsey 3
Tadley 2 Totton 1 Cling 2
YPS Portsmouth 0 Verwood 2
Whitchurch 4 New Milton 0
SPORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP – second round:
Paulsgrove 0 Paulsgrove Res 6 (6-15pens)
Fleetlands 1 Hayting United 2
NEW FOREST CARE HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP – second round:
Winchester Castle 1 Bush Hill 1
Netley Central 3 Comrades 2
Premier Division:
Clanfield 6 Hedge End Rangers 0
Fleetlands 0 QK Southampton 2
Hayting Utd pp Overton Utd
Infinity 0 Sway 1
Liphook Utd 2 Colden Common 1
Liss Athletic 2 Lichess Heath 1
Division One:
lichemersh & Timbury 0 AFC Petersfield 3
South Winton Sports 2 Lyndhurst 3
Udlesham Town 3 – up – first round:
Overton 3 Bush Hill 3 (3-2pens)
QK Southampton 5 Clanfield 3
Combination League:
Headley Utd 2 Liphook 3
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
League of Wight Challenges Cup:
East Cowes Vics 1 Ryde Saints 4
East Division:
Alton 4 AFC Stomeham 1
Baffins Mrn 3 Folland Sports 4
Bosham 1 Aldershot Town 12
Fareham Town 3 Tadley Callows 0
Humble Club 1 Sholing 3
Newport IOW 1 Liss Athletic 1
Petersfield Town 0 Gosport Borough 3
West Division:
Brookenhurst 2 Hythe & Dibden 2
Christchurch 5 New Milton Town 3
Colden Common 3 Fawley AFC 3
Lymington Town 1 Ringwood Town 3
Romsey Town 1 Laverstock & Ford 1
Verwood Town 2 Downton 2
VERWOOD TOWN 3 Bemerton Hn 4
DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE SENIOR LEAGUE CUP, second round
BIC. Soten 4 Bashfield 2
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP, second round
League of Wight Challenges Cup:
SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR A/CUP, third round
quarter finals
BIC Soten Res 6 FC Independence 0
Forest Edge Rovers 2 Hamble United 3
Premier Division:
Bishops Waltham Dyn 2 AFC Gylt Western 1
Soten Dyn 3 Nursling 4
Senior 1:
Comrades Sports Res 1 Durlley 4
Montefiore Halls 2 Alderbury 3
Warssash Wasps 3 Hedge End Town 2

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